One of two accused of raping minor pleads guilty. PAGE 3
Rabauliman, Perez are appointed to the CUC board. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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PUSH CEREMONY

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE

Right to left, Col. Kyle Benwitz, 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing commander; Bruce Best, University of Guam researcher; Brig. Gen. Paul Birch, 36th Wing commander; and Col. Andrew Roddan, 374th Airlift Wing commander, push a box of humanitarian goods into a C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron during the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, last Monday Dec. 5, 2022. Operation Christmas Drop is an annual event that delivers aid to island communities in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Story and more photos on Page 6

Torres' jury trial set for Feb.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' defense counsel wants to push back to August 2023 the jury trial in the criminal case the Attorney General's Office had filed against Torres, but the judge handling the case said no and insisted on pushing through with the February schedule.

» Torres' defense wants to push back trial

After nearly 10 months since Attorney General Edward Manibusan filed the criminal suit against Torres, a jury trial has finally been confirmed for February, but the defense now wants to push it

See TORRES on Page 4

REAL ID enforcement extended to 2025

The CNMI and all other U.S. states and territories are getting additional time to fully enforce the REAL ID requirement for domestic travelers—a reprieve that is attributed to the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

» States to have additional time to meet requirements

The Department of Homeland Security announced Monday its intent to extend the REAL ID full enforcement date by 24 months, from May 3, 2023 to May 7, 2025.

See REAL ID on Page 4

Justices spar in latest clash of religion and gay rights

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court 's conservative majority sounded sympathetic Monday to a Christian graphic artist who objects to designing wedding websites for gay

See JUSTICES on Page 4

CEC to certify runoff election results Friday

» CEC board members to meet Friday in preparation for counting of remaining absentee votes

» CEC staff will pick up votes from postal office Friday at 11am.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board is expected to certify this Friday the

See CEC on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
The Tinian Elementary School sidewalk was graced with creative artwork last Nov. 16.

PAGE 7

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
By now you have probably heard of hygge, the Danish term for coziness and contentment.

PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
Kirstie Alley, who was one of the biggest stars in American comedy, died Monday. She was 71.

PAGE 15

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

GMS FALCONS SOAR HIGH

For the second time in a row, Green Meadow School students, who refer to themselves as the GMS Falcons, soared high in the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Nov. 19, 2022, at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in San Antonio Village. GMS students participated in both K-2 and 3-5 divisions. This photo shows the school's 3-5 Division participants.

GMS

Photo shows the Green Meadow School's K-2 Category participants.

GMS

NMC VISIT

Students from the Tasi-to-Table organization visited the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services' Aquaculture and Natural Resources Facility on Dec. 3, 2022. During their visit, the students learned about the aquaculture industry and the ongoing Forktail Rabbitfish research projects from NMC-CREES A&NR program leader Michael Ogo. More information about the program can be found at crees.marianas.edu.

NMC

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One of two accused of raping minor pleads guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of two men accused of raping a minor at a beach in Susupe earlier this year has pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Frankie Rettanlug, 27, last week to 12 years in prison after Rettanlug pleaded guilty to one count of sexual assault in the first degree

However, according to Camacho's order, Rettanlug will only serve the first eight years of his sentence, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, or weekend release. This means the remaining four years of his sentence will be suspended.

The defendant's suspended sentence may be imposed in whole or in part by the court if he violates CNMI law or, Office of the Adult Probation rules.

In addition to a suspended portion of his sentence, Rettanlug was given credit for nine days of time served.

After serving his sentence, Rattanlug will be placed on probation for five years, and pay court costs and a $120 probation fee.

Rettanlug was also ordered to register with the CNMI Sex Offender Registry.

Following his sentencing hearing last week, Rettanlug was ordered to report to the Department of Corrections immediately to start serving his sentence.

According to court documents, back in May, Rettanlug and his co-defendant, Tim Onopey, were arrested for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl in the beach near Guma Sakman in Susupe.

The case against Onopey remains pending in court.

Court documents state that prior to the rape, Onopey gave the minor a beer before repeatedly asking her to swim with him. The victim said she accepted the beer and eventually agreed to go swimming. She told police that she and Onopey swam to the buoy and that's when Onopey allegedly sexually assaulted her.

The 17-year-old told police she tried to move away from Onopey but every time she did so, he would pull her back. The victim said she repeatedly asked Onopey to stop, to no avail.

After the alleged sexual assault, the victim said they swam to shore but she was afraid to get help because Onopey was still in the area.

While on the shore, the minor said she was feeling dizzy and felt like she was going to faint, so she laid down to rest and eventually fell asleep.

When she woke up, she said Rettanlug approached her and asked what happened to her and Onopey and then invited her to go closer to the shoreline.

When she refused, the victim said Rettanlug dragged her to the beach where Rettanlug sexually assaulted her. The victim said she managed to get away from him but he grabbed her legs and dragged her back so she kicked water in his face, which caused him to stop.

When she got away, she said she went to where there were people she could talk to about the incident.

Torres OKs 2 Rota bills for scholarships, patients' allowance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has signed into law a local bill that will appropriate $24,500 from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Reserve Account for student scholarships and housing assistance.

Torres

Manglona

Torres also signed into law a local bill that will appropriate $10,000 from the Poker Licensing Fee Account for Medical Subsistence Allowance for Rota's hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

The governor said Thursday that the scholarship legislation, House Local Bill 22-39, D1, is now Rota Local Law 22-11, while

See BILLS on Next Page

Power service interruption on Friday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Dec. 9, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

- Time: 9am to 9:30am and 11am to 11:30am
- Area(s) affected: Industrial Drive (Commonwealth Ports Authority [Seaport], Saipan Stevedore, Customs [Seaport], Mobil Oil Marianas, Shell Terminal and portions of the Army Reserve Center).
- Time: 9am to 11:30am
- Area(s) affected:). Industrial Drive (Marine Enforcement Facility).
- Purpose: To perform line clearing near and around the power lines along Industrial Drive in Lower Base.
- Water well(s) affected: None
- Wastewater facility affected: T-3, S-1 and S-3; however, no areas affected and lift stations will be monitored during the scheduled outage.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://wwvv.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

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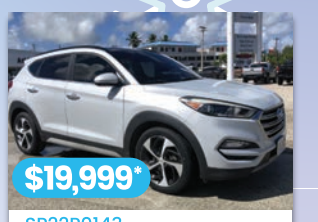
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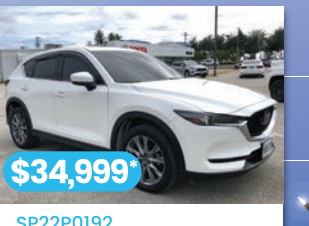
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NMHC discusses funding and projects with Rotary

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director and CEO Jessie Palacios joined the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday during the club's luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan to talk about NMHC's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program, or CDBG-DR program.

During his presentation, Palacios said the program was created in response to the CNMI's need for reconstruction after Typhoon Magkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. So far, he said, the CNMI has received nearly $244 million in funding for the islands' restoration and repair.

The CDBG-DR funneled federal money into housing and infrastructure programs, economic revitalization, planning, and administration, Palacios said, with the highest allocation of funds going into housing programs at 46% of the $244 million, which is $113,362,000.

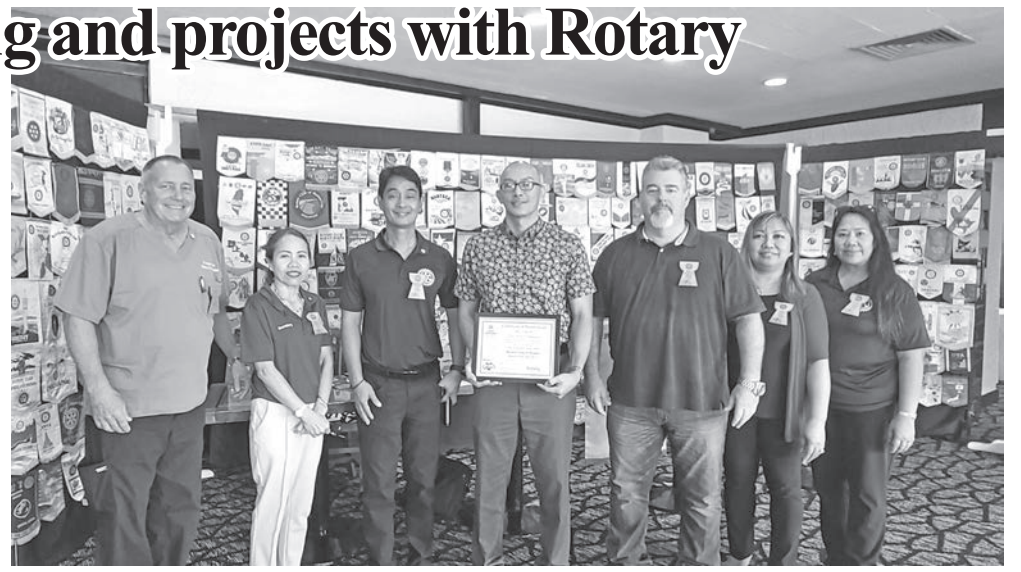
Infrastructure was the next highest funded, which got a share of 43% or $105,881,835 of the total funding. Economic revitalization received 4%, planning 2%, and administration, 5%.

Palacios added that when putting an action plan together, they identified the CNMI's unmet needs total $1.1 billion. Since the grant only reached $244 million, it was only able to cover 22% of the CNMI's unmet needs.

Right now, the homeowner rehabilitation and reconstruction program is one of the sectors of the housing programs that still has available funding and is open to applicants, Palacios said.

Under this program, individuals may apply for the reconstruction or repair of homes damaged by the typhoons.

The single family new construction/ homebuyer program is already closed to applicants since last year, Palacios said, and there is already a waiting



Rotary Club of Saipan officers and directors, from left to right, Community Service director Dr. Nelson Krum, club president Wendell Posadas, president-elect Irene Holl, sergeant-at-arms Mario Valentino, club vice president Jessy Loomis, and secretary Joann Aquino pose with Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director and CEO Jesse S Palacios after his presentation yesterday at the club's luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.
CHRYSTAL MARINO

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

JUSTICES

From Page 1

couples, the latest collision of religion and gay rights to land at the high court.

The designer and her supporters say that ruling against her would force artists—from painters and photographers to writers and musicians—to do work that is against their beliefs. Her opponents, meanwhile, say that if she wins, a range of businesses will be able to discriminate, refusing to serve Black, Jewish or Muslim customers, interracial or interfaith couples or immigrants.

Over more than two hours of spirited arguments, the justices repeatedly tested out what ruling for the designer could mean, using detailed and sometimes colorful hypothetical scenarios. Those included a Black Santa asked to take a picture with a child dressed in a Ku Klux Klan outfit, a photographer asked to take pictures for the marital infidelity website Ashley Madison, and an invented food business called "Grandma Helen's Protestant Provisions."

The case comes at a time when the court is dominated 6-3 by conservatives and follows a series of cases in which the justices have sided with religious plaintiffs. Across the street from the court, meanwhile, lawmakers in Congress are finalizing what would be a landmark bill protecting same-sex marriage, legislation prompted by a different high court case from earlier this year.

REAL ID

From Page 1

Under the new regulations, beginning May 7, 2025, every traveler 18 years of age or older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or another Transportation Security Administration-acceptable form of identification at airport security checkpoints for domestic air travel.

With the revised deadline, states will now have additional time to ensure their residents have driver's licenses and identification cards that meet the security standards established by the REAL ID Act.

As required by the law, following the enforcement deadline, federal agencies, including the TSA, will be prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards that do not meet these federal standards.

"DHS continues to work closely with U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories to meet REAL ID requirements," said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "This extension will give states needed time to ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card. DHS will also use this time to implement innovations to make the process more efficient and accessible. We will continue to ensure that the American public can travel safely."

The extension is necessary, in part, to address the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ability to obtain a REAL ID driver's license or identification card. REAL ID progress over the past two years has been significantly hindered by state driver's licensing agencies having to work through the backlogs created by the pandemic. Many of these agencies took various steps in response to the pandemic including automatically extending the expiration dates of driver's licenses and identification cards and shifting operations to appointment only.

Passed by Congress in 2005 following a 9/11 Commission recommendation, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. Security standards include incorporating anti-counterfeiting technology, preventing insider fraud, and using documentary evidence and record checks to ensure a person is who they claim to be.

Since enactment of the REAL ID Act in 2005, advancements in technology have enabled TSA to make significant improvements in checkpoint screening, particularly in the areas of identity management, on-person screening, accessible property screening and alarm resolution. Through the deployment of technologies such as Advanced Imaging Technology, Advanced Technology X-ray, then Computed Tomography, Bottled Liquids Scanners, and Credential Authentication Technology, as well as deployment of Passenger Screening Canines and the rollout of TSA PreCheck, TSA has continually advanced its security capabilities. TSA also increased its vetting capability through Secure Flight, a risk-based passenger prescreening program that enhances security by identifying low and high-risk passengers before they arrive at the airport by matching their names against trusted traveler lists and watchlists. REAL ID requirements will strengthen these improvements further by providing an additional layer of confidence in the identity of the traveler.

All 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and four of five U.S. territories covered by the REAL ID Act and related regulations are issuing REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards. These standards have significantly improved the reliability and accuracy of state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

For more information on REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

TORRES

From Page 1

back to August.

During a status conference yesterday before Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino, the judge issued an order officially setting Torres' jury trial date for Feb. 13.

However, Torres' lawyer, Victorino Torres, argued extensively, asking that the court to push the trial further to sometime in August to accommodate his schedule.

"My client has waived his right to a speedy trial. There is no reason to fast-track these proceedings," said Victorino Torres, who is the governor's brother.

OAG Chief Solicitor Robert Glass Jr. did not oppose Victorino Torres' request but Tolentino did. "I believe a February jury trial is reasonable. This matter has been going on for nearly 10 months. I don't consider this fast-tracking," he said.

Despite the continued arguments presented by Victorino Torres, Tolentino stood firm in his jury trial order, stating that a lot of court resources have been and will be expended to carry out court proceedings in this case and it is in the best interest of everyone to get the trial over with.

Meanwhile, Torres is currently faced with a plea deal recently proposed by Glass that could possibly put the matter to rest altogether without a trial. Torres only has until Dec. 30 to respond to the offer, said Glass, and once the window to respond is gone, he doesn't intend to offer anything else.

As for the contents of the plea agreement, *Saipan Tribune* tried to get Glass to divulge details about it as it has yet to be filed in court, but he chose not to comment at this time.

Back in April, the Office of the Attorney General filed criminal charges against Torres alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres. The governor was also accused of contempt for failure to appear before a legislative committee in response to a subpoena.

Back in August, Tolentino issued multiple orders in this criminal suit, one of which was an order to grant in part and deny in part Torres' motion for the withdrawal or disqualification of the OAG as a prosecutor.

It was in this motion that the judge ordered the dismissal of the contempt charge against Torres.

In the upcoming jury trial, Torres will only be tried on 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for premium class travel for himself and/or the first lady.

CEC

From Page 1

gubernatorial runoff election results shortly after counting the remaining absentee votes.

The CEC sent out 2,139 absentee ballots and only 315 have been returned as of Nov. 25.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol earlier stated that the remaining absentee votes must be postmarked on or before Nov. 25, Saipan time, to be counted this Friday.

With Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his running mate, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, of the unified independent team, enjoying a commanding 1,060-vote lead, it's mathematically improbable for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, Sen. Vinnie Vinson F. Sablan (R-Saipan), of the Republican Party, to catch up.

Torres and Sablan have already conceded defeat and declared that it's time to heal and come together.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, CEC administrative specialist Ambrosio Joaquin "AJ" Lisua said yesterday that the CEC board members will meet this Friday at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Lisua said absentee ballots will be picked up at 11am Friday at the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa and brought to the multi-purpose center.

He said CEC staff will pick up the ballots and they will be accompanied by Department of Public Safety police officers and Office of the Public Auditor representatives.

"Then we will start the processing for final tabulation," Lisua said.

BILLS

From Page 3

the patients' allowance legislation, House Local Bill 22-40, D1, is now Rota Local Law 22-12.

Torres informed Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who co-chair the Rota Legislative Delegation, about his enactment of the two local bills.

Manglona is the author of the two bills.

Under the legislations, the expenditure authority of the $24,500 for scholarship shall be the chairman of the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Board, while for the $10,000 for allowance shall be the Secretary of Finance.

The Rota Legislative Delegation unanimously passed the bills last Nov. 3.

Rabauliman, Perez are appointed to the CUC board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has appointed Mark O. Rabauliman and Allen Michael Perez to serve on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors.

Rabauliman

Rabauliman, who is a former Department of Commerce secretary, was nominated last Nov. 30 to the CUC board representing the 3rd Senatorial District, or Saipan and the Northern Islands

Perez, who is chief of staff of the Tinian and Aguiguan Office of the Mayor, was nominated last Nov. 28 to the CUC board representing the Second Senatorial District, or Tinian and Aguiguan.

Both nominations require the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, Rabauliman and Perez would each serve a four-year term.

Torres told Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) in the nomination letters that he is confident that Rabauliman's and Perez's memberships on the CUC board is critical to ensure consistency and continuity in fulfilling CUC's goals and objectives.The governor said he has every confidence that Rabauliman and Perez will devote their time and efforts in the best interest of people.

Torres also informed the nominees that he is confident that they are qualified and will be an asset to the CUC board.

Hofschneider referred Rabauliman's appointment last Friday to the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) for review and recommendations.

With respect to Perez, Torres noted that the statutory employment restriction that prohibits a government employee from serving as a CUC board member places an undue burden as it limits the pool of otherwise qualified appointees from the island of Tinian. Accordingly, the governor said, he is waiving this restriction as authorized by the statute.

Torres also recently re-nominated former CUC board chair Miranda Lynn Villagomez Manglona representing the First Senatorial District, or Rota.

OIA welcomes 31 from Pacific, USVI to DOI Executive Leadership Development Program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs welcomed 31 new participants to the Executive Leadership Development Program for the Pacific and Caribbean insular areas this week.

The 2023 cohort is composed of mid-level management public servants from American Samoa (four), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (five), Guam (three), the U.S. Virgin Islands (five), the Federated States of Micronesia (eight), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (four), the Republic of Palau (two).

"We welcome this new cohort of ELDP participants who are joining a long successful program that can now boast over 175 alumni," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "This year's group represents a broad cross-section of talent who are positioned to have a long-lasting impact in their respective island communities, and we are extremely pleased to support each one of them in what will be a special journey of professional and personal development."

Competitively selected from a pool of over 100 applicants, the members of the 2023 cohort demonstrated steady career growth with increased levels of responsibility, as well as individual commitment to public service, leadership potential, and diversity of regional and technical perspectives.

Commissioned by the OIA, the ELDP was designed to assist the insular governments with developing and retaining qualified and talented professionals needed to lead their governments into the future. The ELDP offers experiential training content designed to develop public service values and leadership skills. ELDP participants are immersed in experiential projects and work with leading experts to address regional issues.

The ELDP Class of 2022-2023 includes the following individuals from each Insular Area:

American Samoa

■ Mika Aga: Senior Engineer, Department of Port Administration

■ Grace Felise: environmental planner and Coastal Zone Management program manager, Department of Commerce

■ Matilda Kruse: program integrity division head, American Samoa Medicaid State Agency

■ Patrick Reid: public policy adviser, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

■ Jodina Attao: chief executive officer, Northern Marianas Technical Institute

■ Tiffany Crisostomo: director of Revenue Cycle/Outpatient Pharmacy business manager, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

■ Geralyn Delacruz: Zoning administrator, Commonwealth Zoning Board

■ Rich Salas: director, Division of Coastal Resources Management

■ William Torres: grants coordinator, Northern Marianas College

Guam

■ Lawrence Jay Alcairo: grant specialist, Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor

■ Chirag Bhojwani: director of Policy and Communications, Guam Legislature

■ Reuben Bugarin: Ethics Program coordinator, Guam Ethics Commission

U.S. Virgin Islands

■ Alicia Bastien, auditor, Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General

■ Jozette Cantois, assistant commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement

■ Mone't Francis-Gardner, grants administrator, Office of Management and Budget

■ Sheniqua Lake, auditor, Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General

■ Somere Webber, Federal Grants administrator, Office of Management and Budget

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

■ Andy Choor: assistant Public Information Officer, Yap Congressional Delegation

■ Reed Floyd: junior auditor, Kosrae Public Auditors Office, Kosrae State

■ Rosalinda Mori: senior auditor, Office of the Chuuk State Public Auditor, Chuuk State

■ Steincia Olter-Hawley: Carrier & International business manager, FSM Telecommunications Corporation

■ Jason Reiong: deputy director, Department of Education, Chuuk State

■ Pernes Samuel: chief fraud investigator, State Public Auditor, Pohnpei State

■ Trifonovitch Sound: Auditor III, Office of the National Public Auditor, FSM National Government

■ Mary Lou Yatilman: Registrar of Corporations, Department of Justice, FSM National Government

Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

■ Yetta Aliven: Information Management officer, Office of the Chief Secretary

■ Claret ChongGum: foreign service officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

■ Jasmine Myazoe: chief internal auditor, Ministry of Finance

■ Benjamin Wakefield: Deputy Director, National Energy Office

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SINMI monthly meeting on Thursday

The Soroptimist International Chapter of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022, at 12pm at the GrandVrio Hotel's Dolphin Restaurant.

Join us to help continue our work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI!

The Club is accepting new members! Come and meet us and see what we are all about! ***(PR)***

5.2-magnitude earthquake in NMI region

At 12:31pm on Dec. 5 2022, a report of a 5.2-magnitude earthquake occurred 19.249°N 146.520°E in the Northern Marianas Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

Rip currents seen until Friday

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents through Friday afternoon. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for the next few days.

The public is therefore advised to swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

500 SAILS

P.O. BOX 10001 PMB 326
SAIPAN, MP 96950

500 SAILS
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
EDA GRANT NO. 07-79-07817
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MARITIME TRAINING CENTER
500 SAILS-2022/RSQ-002

500 Sails, located in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is soliciting bids from qualified vendors that are interested in providing professional services for the architectural and engineering design and construction management for the Northern Mariana Islands Maritime Training Center (aka Cultural Maritime Training Center of CMTC).

The EDA funded project proposed is a renovation of a 30,900 sq ft warehouse that is in generally good condition and currently in use as a boatyard and teaching facility, and administrative offices. The renovation does not change the footprint of the warehouse. The renovation includes construction of a classrooms and offices area, roof repairs, replacement of warehouse doors and windows, the selection and installation of air conditioning, an air circulation system, selection and installation of an overhead crane, and the installation of multiple delivery points of compressed air,and electrical outlets within the boatyard/shop floor.

The Scope of Work is available beginning December 2, 2022 at 9:00 am Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) via download or in print at the 500 Sails Boatyard and Administrative office, located in Lower Base, Saipan. Requests may be sent via email to nmimtc@500Sails.org.

A bidder's site walk will be held at the 500 Sails boatyard on December 13, 2022 at 4:00pm ChST.

All questions or inquiries regarding this RSQ are due no later than 9:00 pm, December 16, 2022 by email only. Responses to questions or inquiries will be provided to all bidder's site walk attendees by December 20, 2022.

Sealed proposal for this project shall be submitted with one (1) original and four (4) copies to the 500 Sails Boatyard and Administrative Office, located at in Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 3:00pm, local time, ChST, January 3, 2023 and must be marked **"Proposal - Northern Marianas Maritime Training Center 500 Sails-2022-RSQ-002"**.

Please note that **500 Sails-2022/RSQ-002** differs significantly from **500 Sails-2022/RSQ-001** released earlier.

Electronic submissions may be accepted if approved prior to the submission deadline.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RSQ Responses may result in 500 Sails' choice to disqualify such bids.

Pete Perez
Executive Director

71st Operation Christmas Drop kicks off at Andersen AFB

By YASUO OSAKABE
374TH AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Service members and visitors gathered to witness a ceremonial bundle push into a C-130J Super Hercules during the Operation Christmas Drop on Dec. 5.

The push ceremony was part of an official event meant to launch Operation Christmas Drop 2022, a humanitarian airlift mission led by the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Brig. Gen. Gentry Boswell, 36th Wing commander; Col. Andrew Roddan, 374th Airlift Wing commander; and Bruce Best, researcher, University of Guam, joined together to push the bundle of goods into a C-130J assigned to the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. The aircraft went on to join other 374th AW aircraft delivering aid to island communities in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE
U.S. Air Force Col. Andrew Roddan, 374th Airlift Wing commander, speaks during the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE
Bruce Best, a planner and island liaison for Operation Christmas Drop, gives a speech during the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE
Visitors gather prior to an annual push ceremony behind a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022, during Operation Christmas Drop.

"The teamwork we build during Operation Christmas Drop matters," said Roddan. "The community of nations who have gathered here to fly together, to train together and to make this operation work comes together not just here but when we need to partner in the future. The teamwork we build matters every day, and I want to thank every country here for being a part of this."

The ceremony marked the continuation of the longest-running Department of Defense humanitarian and disaster relief mission, with OCD delivering donated supplies gathered by private organization to remote Pacific Island communities across the South-Eastern Pacific. Aircrews deliver bundles via low-cost, low-altitude airdrops from U.S. Air Force C-130J and partner nation C-130 aircraft.

This year, OCD included C-130Js and C-130H aircraft and aircrew from the U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal New Zealand Air Force, and Republic of Korea Air Force. Additionally, Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand participated as international observers.

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE
Right to left, Wing commander, Col. Andrew Roddan, 374th Airlift Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Paul Birch, 36th Wing commander, stand at attention during the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022.

Bruce Best, University of Guam researcher and Capt. Jenn Brenton, 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron Operation Christmas Drop deputy mission commander, talk after the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022.
U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE

U.S. AIR FORCE/YASUO OSAKABE
Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Dunn, 374th Airlift Wing command Chief Master Sergeant, attends the Operation Christmas Drop push ceremony at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 5, 2022.

JOB VACANY ANNOUNCEMENT

JC MARKETING INC. (SAIPAN)

A local wholesale company oriented in the sales and marketing of consumer, medical and industrial products is seeking an experienced,

FIELD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Applicants must be experienced in field sales; have good verbal and written communication skills; and the ability to work independently and effectively.

Please email your resume at
jcmi@jcmarketinginc.com
or drop your resume at our office located at
2193 Laffet Place, Gualo Rai
(Behind Lin's Hardware)

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · CHARLENE M. LIZAMA, Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Consulting Agreement
  - Amerine Gaming Enterprises
- b. Professional Services Proposal
  - Asian Business Knowledge
- c. TCGCC Budget
  - Fiscal Year 2023

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

V. ADJOURNMENT

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

TINES beautification aims to inspire students with color, art

The Tinian Elementary School sidewalk was graced with creative artwork courtesy of Marianas School Pride adviser Kyie Bermudes and over 20 MSP Ambassadors on Nov. 16.

TINES principal Lou Manglona stated that Bermudes is a former TINES student who wanted to give back to the school and share his love of art. According to Manglona, Bermudes enjoys art and wanted to share it with the TINES students by creating a hopscotch game that they could play at school.

The MSP Ambassadors are made up of the TINES National Honor Society, TINES Youth Advisory Panel, and the TINES Student Government Organization.

"So far, since it began, the students love it and have even expressed other designs they hope to see," said Manglona.

Plans for a campus mural are in progress, and the school is eager to share their artwork with the community once it is completed. Bermudes is the main artist who will help with the MSP Campus Mural Contest and the revitalization of the campus sign.

"To those who showed up and expressed their excitement and enthusiasm to participate, it meant a great deal to us. It made us realize that we are on the right track in terms of uniting our children and future students of Tinian Elementary School. We are not only aiming for greater things on campus, but we are also strengthening bonds formed in the past to coincide and intertwine into something beautiful that will last a lifetime," added Manglona.

Along with encouraging students to be more involved with beautification, Manglona says that participating in a beautification initiative will be a great first step.

"These projects can be healthy outlets for any student, especially those who feel like no one will understand. These art projects aren't just for beauty, but it is also a way for anyone who needs and wants to express themselves in a safe and healthy way," said Manglona.

Niesa Borja, a TINES sixth grader, encourages her peers to participate in the next beautification project. Borja says if her peers join the next time, they will provide them with food and water in order to demonstrate to her peers that they care about their hard work and can assist them.

TINES sixth grader Nevaeh Cabrera said that beautification projects will benefit individuals and schools in many ways, such as spending time with your friends.

"It also makes the school more colorful and exciting," said Cabrera.

Along with encouraging students to be more aware of their surroundings, beautification projects will teach students to be more respectful of the environment and to clean up after themselves.

Cabrera sees the value in beautification projects. She said, "As a student in Tinian Elementary, I think beautification is very important. I think it teaches the students how to clean up after themselves, and how to respect the environment."

For Borja, she felt that the school rarely had much inspiration, color, or any elements of fun.

Borja said, "As one of the students of Tinian Elementary School, our school really never had much color so the beautification project adds color and more fun for the younger students. It brings color, fun games, and much more excitement to the school and to the kids who attend and the adults who walk on or beside it."

"Beautification is for everyone! Not only will it allow us to appreciate our surroundings and take stock of the beauty in life, but with these beautification projects underway, we are aiming for the imagination and inspiration that come out of our pieces. We hope and aim to give the people of Tinian something that will be around for ages. Timeless even as our children are our future, may our pieces mold and open our future generations that anything is possible," said Manglona.

Together, We Can!

For more information or to participate in the Marianas School Pride Campaign, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com or contact the council at gceacnmi@gmail.com. Sponsorship opportunities are still open for businesses and key community stakeholders, visit https://www.programs.cnmieconomy.com/msp for more information. ***(GCEA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian Elementary School sidewalk was graced with creative artwork courtesy of Marianas School Pride adviser Kyie Bermudes and over 20 MSP Ambassadors on Nov. 16.

Pohnpei's Marstella E. Jack is PIANGO's new board chair

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organizations, or PIANGO, has announced the appointment of Pohnpei-based attorney Marstella E. Jack to the chairmanship of its governing body during the 9th PIANGO Council held at the Tokatoka Resort in Nadi, Fiji on Nov. 24, 2022.

Jack

Twenty of the 24-member country representatives of the PIANGO network attended the meeting of the Council, the organization's supreme governing body, that is held every three years.

"I see my new role as a commitment to strengthening the role of our members across the region to ensure inclusive, equal and effective participation from a wide range of development actors," Jack said.

Jack will lead PIANGO for the next three years, taking over from Inia Barry of Development Services Exchange, the national NGO umbrella body in the Solomon Islands.

Jack brings 20 years of experience in trial advocacy work, legal drafting, legal research and community awareness legal advocacy work to her position and has served in various capacities in both the public and civil society sectors in the Federal States of Micronesia.

Her prior experience includes working in foreign service for seven years and served three years as head of the FSM Division for Information and Research where she analyzed current global events for foreign policy advice and national foreign policy formulation. Jack also has extensive knowledge of international legal instruments and processes.

As a government attorney for more than 10 years, Jack provided legal advice on international legal instruments and their impact on domestic policies and practices, as well as legal opinions on domestic legislation. She also has experience as a trial attorney.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY FIRE SERVICE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-23

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to provide professional services in updating the CPA Fire Service Certification Program. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning November 07, 2022, upon payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Questions and/or clarifications may be directed in writing to Christopher S. Tenorio at chris.tenorio@cnmiports.com with copy to Frederick Pangelinan at fpangelinan @cnmiports.com. All questions and/or clarifications shall be received no later than November 21, 2022. CPA will not entertain questions and/or clarifications after November 21, 2022.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 07, 2022. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

November 07, 2022

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
Office of the Governor
"Driving You Forward"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's (COTA) Call-A-Ride Saipan Demand Responsive Shared Ride Services inclusive of COTA's Administrative office will be closed on the following day for Professional Development

Monday, December 12, 2022

COTA's Operational and Administrative hours will resume on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022.** We would like to remind our community to plan their trips accordingly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,
/s/ ***Alfreda Camacho Maratita***
Special Assistant
for Public Transportation

COTA Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility. 12841 Lower Base Dr. Saipan
Caller Box 10007; Saipan MP 96950; (670) 664-2682; alfredac.maratita@gov.mp;
www.facebook.com/COTASaipan

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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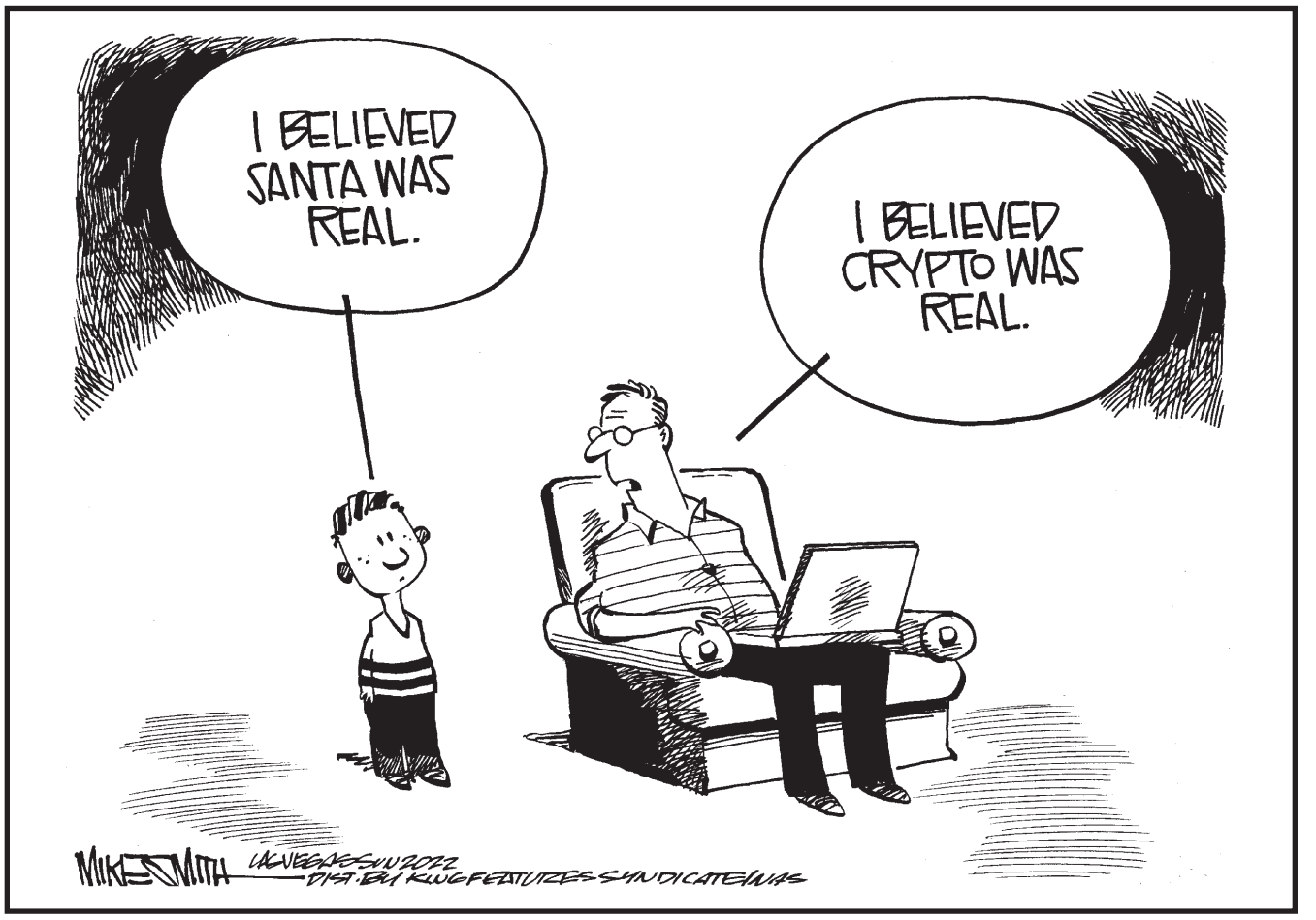


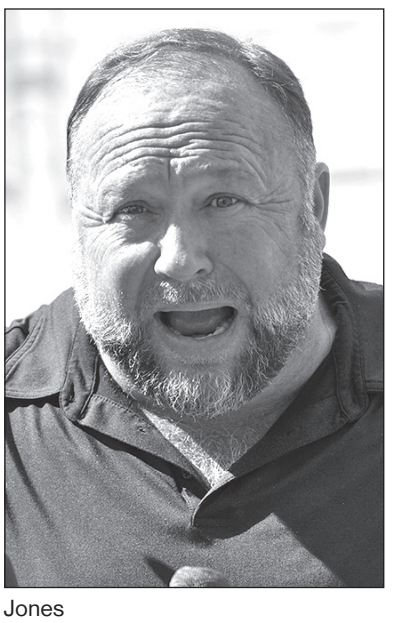
EDITORIAL

Alex Jones' bankruptcy cannot aid his escaping accountability to Sandy Hook families

It's been a busy few days for sentient scumbucket Alex Jones. Thursday, he hosted a certain rapper turned antisemitic ranter, squirming a little as his brother in hate praised Hitler and Nazis. Friday, Jones—who's been morally bankrupt for decades—filed for Chapter 11 personal bankruptcy, a transparent attempt to make it harder for families he smeared to collect a substantial share of the $1.5 billion defamation judgment they won earlier this year.

Jones, who's gotten away with almost every vile thing he's done and said in his 48 years, must not escape accountability this time.

Let's repeat in plain terms what prompted jurors and a judge to order he pay a huge sum to the loved ones of first graders and educators murdered in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary by an unstable young man. Jones repeatedly called the massacre a whole-cloth hoax staged by nefarious forces, which is to say he called mothers and fathers enduring unimaginable grief actors who were gladly profiting from the experience. It is literally impossible to concoct a more nauseating lie.


Jones

Nor was it an idle falsehood. Jones' followers proceeded to hound the people they were told were fabricators. They harassed and tormented them. They forced them to move. They turned what was already a period of awful anguish no human should ever have to endure into hell on earth.

Jones has been slithering away from having to pay any price for years. As *The Washington Post* reported last month, records show that when, in mid-2020, it started to look like there might be consequences for his vile lies, he started moving money into other companies controlled by himself, relatives or friends. And so, when his Free Speech Systems entered corporate bankruptcy in July, the very live and still unanswered question was where else in the woodwork he has bills rolled up and stashed. That is now underlined in light of his attempt to restructure his personal finances.

Reality might finally bite Alex Jones. It must leave a mark.

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A tip for unmarried couples: Romance has a bottom line

By ERIN LOWRY
Bloomberg News

Erin Lowry is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering personal finance. She is the author of the three-part* Broke Millennial *series*.

Cohabiting before marriage is becoming more common, with the number of unmarried partners living together in the U.S. nearly tripling from 1996 to 2017. That was before potential isolation during a pandemic followed by wild inflation and skyrocketing rent made it even more practical to move in with a partner prior to saying "I do."

The shift raises a question: How should unmarried, cohabitating couples navigate shared—but not exactly joint—finances?

The childhood truism that the fairest way to split anything is 50-50 simply doesn't hold when it comes to balancing a household budget. One partner may drastically outearn the other or have significantly less debt or receive family money. One partner may have a taste for luxury in a way the other doesn't. One partner may need financial support because she's going back to school or has experienced job loss.

There are so many shades of gray with what is fair and equitable in a romantic relationship, especially when it comes to money. The one certainty is that it's time for those who consider a 50/50 split as the best way to handle finances to instead infuse the conversation with nuance to determine what feels best for the ecosystem of the relationship.

Just like in marriage, the two main considerations should be financial goals and lifestyle. Are the two of you compatible when it comes to the type of life you want to live and how you want to achieve your goals? It can be particularly trying when one partner makes substantially more and expects the other to keep up. Should you want to live in a significantly more expensive apartment or house, then the rent needs to be prorated in a way that acknowledges your partner's income and individual financial goals. It never hurts to draw up a cohabitation agreement so that you can go back to a written document that outlines what you've both agreed to.

The next step is to discuss how you want to handle your finances as a couple. Joint is often seen as the default in marriage, even though it shouldn't be, and joint is rarely the right move for unmarried couples. This isn't because the relationship is less serious without a marriage license, but simply that there are parameters dictating how marital assets are divided in a divorce.

Things aren't quite so cut-and-dry in a breakup, especially with a joint account. In the case of an acrimonious split, an ex could drain a joint account and the recourse would be somewhat minimal. Sure, you can go to small claims or civil court, but that could take a lot of time and money. For cohabitating couples, joint accounts should only be for the bare minimum needed on shared expenses like rent and utilities.

Joint credit cards should be avoided as well because that's essentially co-signing on a loan and could impact your bank account and credit score. An authorized user is easier to remove from your credit card, but a joint credit card typically needs to be fully paid off to remove a card owner. It might sound untrusting, but it's usually in your best interest to keep most of your financial assets separate.

Speaking of financial assets, what happens if you plan to move into your partner's home that she owns?

Creating a dynamic in which one partner is both lover and landlord is setting you up for a potentially disastrous power imbalance. It's completely unfair for the non-owning partner to pay rent, especially market-rate rent, without the protection of a lease agreement. You're helping someone else pay off a mortgage and you're vulnerable to an eviction should the relationship go south.

This is a situation in which nuance and discussions of what feels fair to both of you is critical. Splitting the mortgage costs down the middle when one person is building equity and the other has no legal claim to the property may seem unjust. But one person paying the full cost when utility costs and wear and tear are likely to increase with another inhabitant isn't exactly fair, either.

You could prorate the mortgage costs so the partner moving in is paying a modest amount that feels reasonable. Non-owners could cover a portion of utilities and another shared expense like groceries. Non-owners should never be responsible for the cost of home repairs like a new roof or HVAC system unless they directly caused damage that resulted in the necessary repairs.

The other uncomfortable calculation for an unmarried couple is to determine just how much to invest in a partner. No, I don't mean emotionally. Financially, how much are you willing to invest when you're unmarried? Of course, in marriage, there's still no real guarantee of a payoff in the purest financial sense. How many horror stories are there of wives who helped support husbands through medical school or business school only to be left right as the men are on the precipice of financially leveling up? Alimony may help soothe the pain somewhat, but it's an unfair sacrifice for the emotional, and

See ROMANCE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to find freedom from 'worst-case scenario' thinking

By SETH GILLIHAN
Los Angeles Times

Seth Gillihan, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist and podcast host. He is the author of Mindful Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: A Simple Path to Healing, Hope, and Peace, *which will be published in December.*

As a recession looms on the horizon, many people understandably are worried about their finances and job security. While these concerns are not unfounded, constant worry and stress about things that might go wrong take a toll on a person's mental and physical well-being.

That was the situation my patient M. found herself in when she came to me several years ago for psychotherapy. She was terrified of being fired and teetering toward depression. "I don't know what I would do if I lost my job," she lamented in one of her first sessions with me. "Who's going to hire a 55-year-old?"

As a psychologist who specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy, a treatment approach that aims to change thinking patterns, my job was to guide M. in challenging the thoughts that stoked her fears and fueled her stress. These thoughts were shaping her reality, but there was scant evidence to support them. As we explored the stories her mind was telling her—my boss hates me; I'm going to get fired—she realized they were more likely fiction than fact. Cognitive techniques gave M. a different perspective on her work situation and provided a lot of stress relief. Over the following weeks her mood began to brighten.

But a few months later, M. started our session with news: "So … I got fired."

Traditional CBT is a powerful way to practice more helpful ways of thinking when our thoughts are misguided. It had helped so many of my patients to let go of unrealistic beliefs that fuel anxiety and depression. But, despite my almost two decades of clinical practice, I didn't know what this therapy had to offer in a situation like M.'s when things really are as bad as the person believes. How could it help M. now that she was jobless?

I discovered the surprising answer through my own encounter with deep disappointment and loss. Shortly after my 40th birthday, my health started to fall apart, which eventually led to a deep depression. For more than a year I used the tools I had shared with my clients to question the scary predictions my mind was making—that my health would get worse, that our finances would collapse, that we would end up in major credit card debt. But then, one by one, each of these fears came true. I couldn't reason my way out of my negative thoughts because they faithfully reflected reality.

The tacit premise of my approach, both with M. and with myself, was that well-being depends on things turning out the way we want them to. M. could be happy only if she kept her job. I would be OK as long as we didn't lose our house. But what if we did? Even if the probability was low, the possibility was terrifying. As I looked deeper, I realized that examining our thoughts more closely not only helped when we were unduly worried—it was especially helpful when life didn't go our way.

I found greater equanimity when I began to question my underlying assumption that maintaining life as I knew it was the basis for my peace of mind. In reality there was little evidence for that foundational belief. Countless people had lost much more than I had and still managed to find joy. I needed to look no further than my own parents, who had lost their home due to illness and bankruptcy; I had witnessed their ability to find happiness despite the resulting pain and upheaval.

I didn't become indifferent to my health or our financial situation, but my peace of mind was no longer tied to them. This shift in thinking opened the door to mindful acceptance—the willingness to receive my experience just as it was. Living with mindful acceptance, writes the Buddhist nun Pema Chödrön in "The Wisdom of No Escape," means "saying yes to whatever is put on your plate, whatever knocks on your door."

Mindfulness helped M. to see through her assumption that life would be over if she was fired. The terror she had felt when she imagined all that could go wrong came from looking ahead only far enough to see things fall apart. But she came to understand that life would extend beyond her failures and setbacks; as long as she was alive, there always would be the next thing to do. Her financial situation was tight for many months as she looked for work, but she used her time off to strengthen her relationship with her adult daughter. Eventually she found another job.

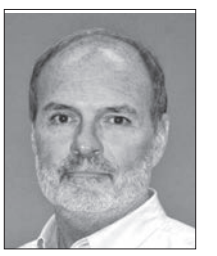
Embracing all of life—even the rough parts—is a nearly universal tenet in wisdom traditions like Buddhism. It is foundational to Stoicism, for example, as expressed by the emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius in "Meditations": "Accept the obstacle and work with what you're given." Similarly, the early Christian writer Paul told the church at Philippi that he had "learned to be content whatever the circumstances." This open embrace of life is also the foundation for a new generation of mindfulness-based therapies.

M.'s newfound openness to an unknowable future helped her to connect with a deeper part of herself that was untouched by measures of loss and gain and could not be diminished by losing her job or the approval of others.

We can't find true security in the hope that everything will work out the way we want it to. As the pandemic has taught us, the safety net we imagine is a fantasy. Lasting happiness comes not from chasing pleasure and avoiding pain, but from saying yes to it all.

The courageous anti-jungle forces deserve more support

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

When we want to describe a world that is chaotic and dangerous, few metaphors are more apt than "jungle." We say, "It's a jungle out there."

Robert Kagan puts the term to good use in his 2018 book "The Jungle Grows Back." He argues that the "liberal world order" that we have come to regard as inevitable is actually a mythical seven-decade reprieve from history-as-usual that began after World War II.

For thousands of years, the story of humankind, Kagan says, is more accurately described as a "long tale of war, tyranny, and poverty." These millennia were characterized by repression and disregard for the rights and interests of individuals. The context for this squalor and backwardness was virtually constant conflict among national powers, great and small.

In other words, a jungle.

According to Kagan, the jungle has been subdued by the liberal world order that was largely engineered by the United States beginning in 1945. The result is a unique era in human history that values democracy, equality, the rule of law over tyranny and international trade and cooperation over war. The rights of individuals are valued more than the prerogatives of the state.

Since the end of World War II, the jungle has been losing, and the United States has been on the right side of history.

But there are two problems: The first is that keeping the jungle at bay requires force, and in a world where the ultimate weapon is nuclear, subduing the jungle could easily destroy what we hope to save.

Second, like a literal jungle, the metaphorical jungle reflects the natural entropy that applies to all order in the universe. The earth, the houses we live in, our physical bodies all tend toward disorder. They require maintenance and rejuvenation just to stay ahead of the entropy.

In other words, the jungle always threatens to grow back. Constant pruning and brush-cutting and, sometimes, serious lumberjacking are required.

Together these two problems don't provide much reason for optimism. But we might find some hope in another force that sometimes seems as strong and natural as the jungle's tendency to re-encroach: The willingness of courageous, determined people to push back against autocratic states.

We're seeing this in surprising and dangerous places. Imagine the bravery that it takes to march in the streets of Beijing in protest against the increasingly autocratic rule of Xi Jinping. What kind of commitment to freedom is required to galvanize Iranians to publicly object to their government's theocratic oppression?

Consider the courage of the Iranian soccer team, which, in support of their fellow citizens protesting at home, refused to sing Iran's national anthem before their opening game at the World Cup, while their faces were being broadcast in close-up on international television?

This passion for freedom is encouraged by social media. Women in Iran understand that not all women live under the oppression of theocratic patriarchs. Women in Saudi Arabia know that women elsewhere enjoy the privilege of driving automobiles. LGBTQ+ everywhere know that more and more of the world is beginning to understand that criminalization of their natural-born sexual disposition is inherently wrong.

The odds are against these protesters. Chinese authorities moved quickly to suppress the demonstrations, using cellphone data and facial recognition to identify the protesters. Thousands have been arrested.

In Iran, authorities rapidly began to quash the protests, in some cases using live ammunition. The figures are tentative, but by some accounts 14,000 protesters have been arrested and 448 killed.

In short, humanity's tendency toward entropy and disorder is powerful, but the brave forces that resist are courageous and determined.

Of course, most Americans support courageous resistance to autocratic regimes. But are we emphatic enough in our support for protesters who are risking their lives for principles that we believe in?

For a century we've been indifferent to those principles in countries that provide us with cheap petroleum. But how well do we serve them by playing World Cup soccer in a country that consigns women to inferior status and where homosexual activity can result in seven years in prison?

ROMANCE

From Page 8

potentially financial, devastation.

Unmarried partners must consider the cost-benefit analysis of how much they're willing to help support each other financially. Will one partner be resentful about carrying the bulk of housing costs while the other went back to school? How about paying most living expenses so the other can pay off debts faster? Much like loaning money to a loved one, this sort of support should only be provided if it can truly be framed as a gift—meaning you feel emotionally and financially comfortable with never being repaid.

Financially supporting a partner has the potential to massively pay off for you both and increase your emotional bond—but there does need to be a frank conversation about how you both feel and what feels equitable.

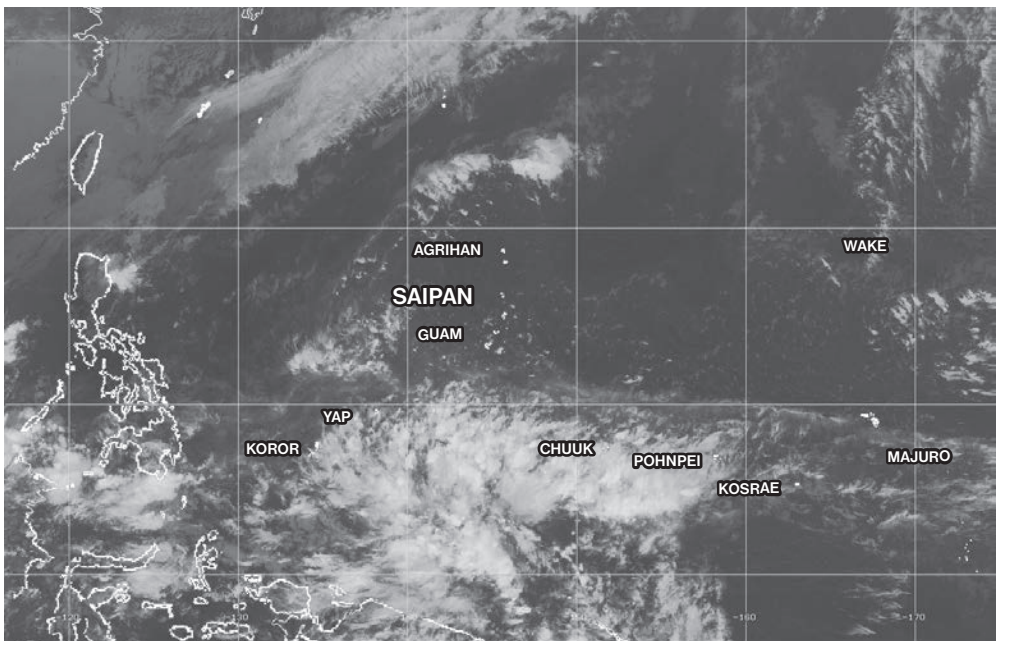
We don't like to frame our romantic relationships through a practical business lens, but partnerships do have such elements. The person with whom you end up is one of the most important financial decisions you'll make in your life. Of course, life is about more than just money, but it's also important to set yourself up to minimize resentment and regret.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Isolated showers. Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny
83° 78°	83° 78°	83° 78°	83° 78°	83° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:35 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate "bubbling up" of showers crossing the coastal waters as a broad surface trough exits the region. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are around 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	82° / 74°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Isolated Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:53 AM	4:56 PM
Thursday	-	5:46 AM	5:36 PM
Friday	-	6:39 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	-	7:33 AM	7:03 PM
Sunday	-	8:28 AM	7:51 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Rain/Wind	65° / 59°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	41° / 21°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	69° / 61°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	40° / 26°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	62° / 48°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	68° / 49°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 73°
New York	Rain	57° / 55°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	53° / 43°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°
Rome	Light Rain	64° / 50°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 61°
San Francisco	Showers	55° / 41°
Seoul	Sunny	47° / 27°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	55° / 40°
Washington, DC	Rain	49° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:12 AM	Low Tide	-0.39
8:11 AM	High Tide	1.64
1:24 PM	Low Tide	1.03
6:17 PM	High Tide	1.71

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	7:45AM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau
OZ624/701	3:40PM	10:35AM+1	3,6 via Incheon

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

OZ624	3:40PM	7:40PM	3, 6
TW308	4:30PM	8:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:40PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ623	9:00AM	2:40PM	3, 6
TW307	10:00AM	3:30PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.	

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	

SAIPAN TO GUAM

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.	

GUAM TO SAIPAN

DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Cup BAB opens 3rd location, this time in San Antonio

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Cup BAB's third location in San Antonio is located next to Super Market at the old Department of Labor and Immigration building.CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARK RABAGO

Cup BAB's 15-piece chicken wings.

MARK RABAGO

Cup BAB's Shrimp BAB.

Those living on the southern part of Saipan won't have to drive all the way to San Jose or Garapan to taste sumptuous Korean takeout as Cup BAB opened its location in San Antonio yesterday.

Dante Conlu, who handles BAB Korean Restaurant's marketing and promotions, said they opened a third Cup BAB location next to SuperMarket at the old Department of Labor and Immigration building in San Antonio yesterday.

"It's actually been a year coming because we were deciding whether it's really the right place to open a third Cup BAB location or not. Until such time our customers who live in the south themselves urged us to open the San Antonio location," he said.

The unmistakable Cup BAB signage actually has been visible at the potential third location for nearly a year, which Conlu admitted made customers of the takeout and drive-thru Korean fast food service more eagerly anticipate its opening in San Antonio.

By opening Cup BAB San Antonio, BAB Korean Restaurant is looking to tap into residential customers from the Koblerville and San Antonio area.

"Our philosophy is that instead of our customers coming to our two branches in Garapan and San Jose, we opted to come to them and in this case we opened the third location in San Antonio. Besides, the Cup BAB brand has already been established and COVID-19 restrictions have eased so it was easier for us to open the third location," said Conlu.

So far, Cup BAB items available at the newly opened branch include Original BAB, Volcano BAB, Ugly Pop BAB, Squid BAB, Shake BAB, Combo BAB, tteok, dak-gang jeong, k-noodles, LA BBQ BAB, Pork BBQ BAB, Ocean BAB, Yan Kimchi Fried Rice, kalbi soup, and kimchi soup.

They will also be offering their new delectable shrimp menu (shrimp chaser and Shrimp BAB) and their immensely popular 5-, 8-, and 15-piece chicken wings at the new location.

Cup BAB San Antonio items are priced the same as their first two branches in Garapan and San Jose.

To celebrate the opening of the San Antonio location, Cup BAB will also give a complimentary medium-sized iced tea for every $20 purchase in the first two weeks of operations from Nov. 6 to 20. Other promotions unique to the newly opened San Antonio location are also in the works, according to Conlu.

Cup BAB San Antonio is open from 10am to 8:30pm everyday. For more information, call 233-4222 or contact them on their Facebook page: Cup BAB.

California eyes penalties for oil companies' big profits

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California could become the first state to fine big oil companies for making too much money, a reaction to the industry's supersized profits following a summer of record-high gas prices in the nation's most populous state.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and his Democratic allies in the state Legislature introduced the proposal Monday as lawmakers returned to the state Capitol in Sacramento for the start of a special legislative session focused solely on the oil industry.

But the proposal was missing key details, including how much profit is too much for oil companies and what fine they would have to pay for exceeding it. Newsom's office said those details would be sorted out later after negotiations with lawmakers. Any money from the fines would be returned to the public.

Gas prices are always higher in California because of taxes, fees and environmental regulations that other states don't have. But in October, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in California was more than $2.60 higher than the national average—the biggest gap ever.

Newsom said there was no good way to justify that.

Speaking to reporters, Newsom compared the actions of oil companies to price gougers charging more for hand sanitizer during the pandemic. He said the goal of the penalty is to prevent gas prices from shooting up similarly in the future, calling it "a proactive effort in order to change behavior."

"We're burning up. We're choking up. We're heating up because of these folks," Newsom said, referring to the oil industry and its impact on the environment. "And people are barely able to pay their bills because of these folks."

It could be a popular proposal with voters, who have been paying more than $6 per gallon of gasoline on average for much of the year. But that doesn't mean it will be easy to get it through the state Legislature, where the oil industry is one of the top spenders on both lobbyists and campaign contributions.

Crucially, the proposal classifies the fine as a "civil penalty" and not a tax. That means only a simple majority would be needed for passage, instead of the two-thirds majority that is required to raise taxes.

"Whatever Gov. Newsom wants to call it, this is a tax and it's going to have the same impact that all taxes do on consumers, and that is to raises costs, not bring them down," said Kevin Slagle, spokesperson for the Western States Petroleum Association. "We think the governor should be honest about what this is and let the legislators vote on a tax and sell it to the California public as a tax and see how people feel about it."

BEST SELLERS

Investors press railroads to add sick time for workers

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Major freight railroads are facing pressure to add sick days for their workers from a new front: An influential investment group says some of its members are now pushing the measure that Congress declined to as part of the contracts they imposed last week to avert a potentially devastating nationwide rail strike.

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility said Monday that two investment managers it works with to help promote social change at companies had filed proposals at Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railroads to give shareholders a vote on whether rail workers should get paid sick leave. Similar proposals are likely to be filed at CSX and at BNSF's parent company of Berkshire Hathaway, but they haven't been submitted yet. The ICCR represents 300 members with over $4 trillion in assets.

The lack of paid sick time in the industry became a major sticking point this fall in contract talks between the railroads and their 12 unions. Four of those unions rejected five-year deals that included 24% raises and $5,000 in bonuses because of their concerns about sick leave, demanding schedules and other quality-of-life concerns.

President Joe Biden signed a bill Friday that forces railroad workers to accept those deals that were negotiated back in September and prohibits them from going on strike. A separate bill that would have required sick time failed in the Senate.

US, EU agree to intensify talks on 'green subsidies' dispute

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and European Union agreed Monday to intensify talks to resolve EU concerns over major subsidies for American companies contained in a U.S. clean energy law.

Although no deal was reached at a meeting of the bilateral bilateral Trade and Technology Council, the two sides pledged to continue work on preliminary progress and said they would push for a solution that benefits both U.S. and European firms, workers and consumers as well as the climate.

"We acknowledge the EU's concerns and underline our commitment to address them constructively," the two sides said in a joint statement after the meeting at the University of Maryland in College Park, located just outside Washington.

"We underline the TTC's role in achieving this and in supporting a successful and mutually supportive green transition with strong, secure, and diverse supply chains that benefit businesses, workers, and consumers on both sides of the Atlantic," it said.

The dispute revolves around the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act offers about $375 billion in new and extended tax credits to help the U.S. clean energy industry as well as buyers of qualifying electric vehicles made in North America.

But European leaders have expressed alarm that the subsidies would be an enormous setback for European companies. French President Emmanuel Macron raised the issue directly with President Joe Biden during his state visit to Washington last week during which Biden and other U.S. officials said they were willing to address the matter, including "glitches" in the law.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that as soon as the U.S. became aware of the EU's concerns it set up a task force to deal with them.

Nation

USS Arizona survivor: Honor those killed at Pearl Harbor

HONOLULU (AP)—USS Arizona sailor Lou Conter lived through the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor even though his battleship exploded and sank after being pierced by aerial bombs.

That makes the now 101-year-old somewhat of a celebrity, especially on the anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941, assault. Many call him and others in the nation's dwindling pool of Pearl Harbor survivors heroes.

Conter rejects the characterization.

"The 2,403 men that died are the heroes. And we've got to honor them ahead of everybody else. And I've said that every time, and I think it should be stressed," Conter said in a recent interview at his Grass Valley, California, home north of Sacramento.

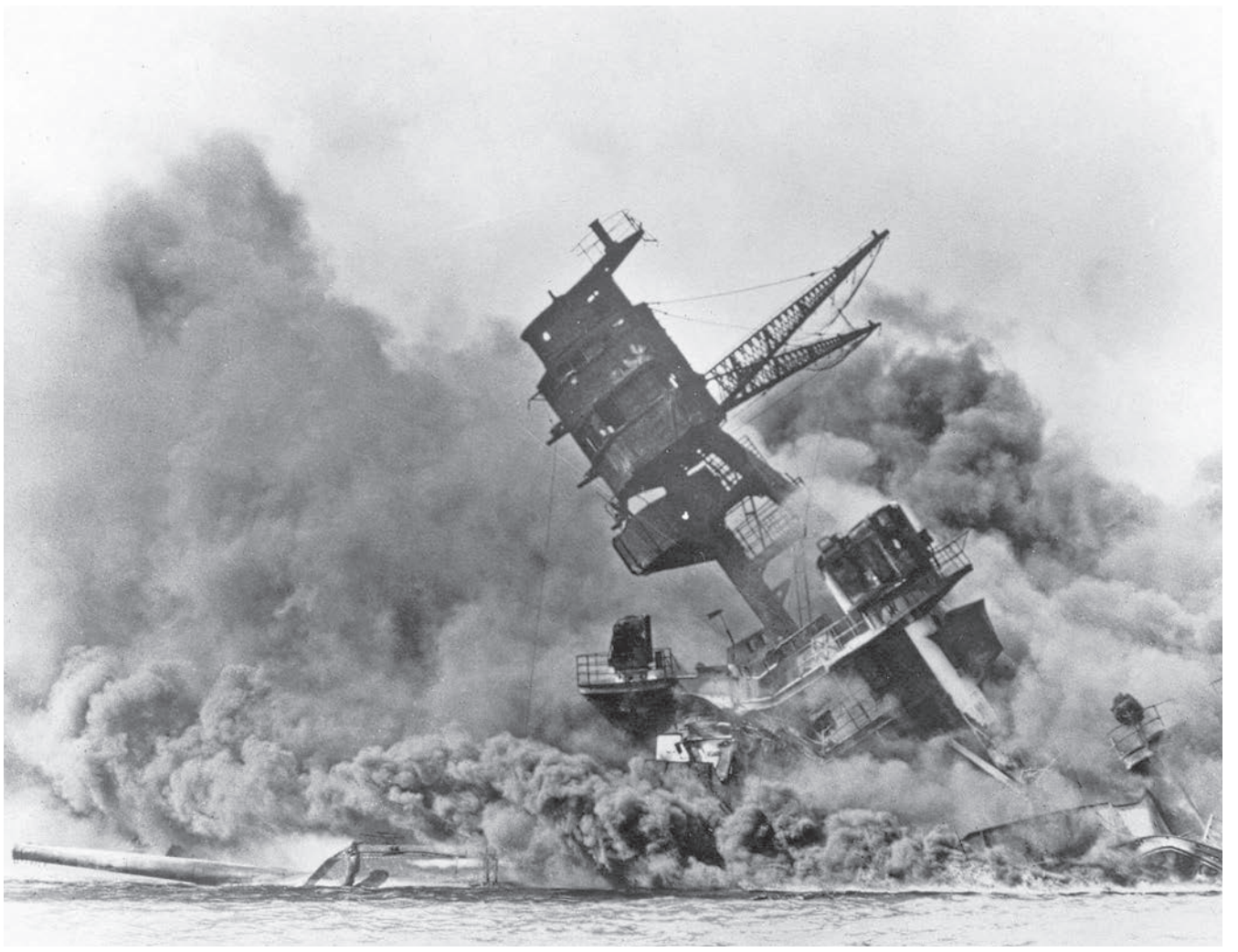
On Wednesday, the U.S. Navy and the National Park Service will host a remembrance ceremony at Pearl Harbor in honor of those killed.

Last year about 30 survivors and some 100 other veterans of the war made the pilgrimage to the annual event. But the U.S. Navy and the National Park Service anticipate only one or two survivors will likely attend in person this year. Another 20 to 30 veterans of World War II are also expected to be there.

Conter won't be among them. He attended for many years, most recently in 2019. But his doctor has told him the five-hour flight, plus hours of waiting at airports, is too strenuous for him now.

"I'm going on 102 now. It's kind of hard to mess around," Conter said.

Instead he plans to watch a video feed of this year's 81st anniversary observance from home. He's also recorded a message that will be played for those attending.



AP

In this photo provided by the U.S. Navy, smoke rises from the battleship USS Arizona as it sinks during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941.

Conter's autobiography "The Lou Conter Story" recounts how one of the Japanese bombs penetrated five steel decks on the Arizona and ignited over 1 million pounds of gunpowder and thousands of pounds of ammunition.

"The ship was consumed in a giant fireball that looked as if it engulfed everything from the mainmast forward," he wrote.

He joined other survivors in tending to the injured, many of whom were blinded and badly burned. The sailors only abandoned ship when their senior surviving officer was sure they had rescued all those still alive.

The Arizona's 1,177 dead account for nearly half the servicemen killed in the bombing. The battleship today sits where it sank 81 years ago, with more than 900 of its dead still entombed inside.

Conter wasn't injured at Pearl Harbor, during World War II or the Korean War.

This year's remembrance ceremony is the first to be open to the public since the 2019. The pandemic forced the adoption of strict public health measures for the last two years.

Biden's efforts to protect abortion access hit roadblocks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is still actively searching for ways to safeguard abortion access for millions of women, even as it bumps up against a complex web of strict new state laws enacted in the months after the Supreme Court stripped the constitutional right.

Looking to seize on momentum following a midterm election where voters widely rebuked tougher abortion restrictions, there's a renewed push at the White House to find ways to help women in states that have virtually outlawed or limited the treatment, and to keep the issue top of mind for voters.

In reality, though, the administration is shackled by a ban on federal funding for most abortions, a conservative-leaning Supreme Court inclined to rule against abortion rights and a split Congress unwilling to pass legislation on the matter.

Meanwhile, frustration on the ground in the most abortion-restricted states is mounting.

"This is not going away anytime soon," said Jen Klein of the Biden administration's Gender Policy Council. "Tens of millions of Americans are living under bans of various sorts, many of them quite extreme, and even in states where abortion is legal, we're all seeing the impact on providers and on systems being loaded by people who are coming across state lines."

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, roughly half the states have some type of abortion restrictions in place, with at least 11 states essentially banning the procedure.

Administration officials are meeting Tuesday and Wednesday with state lawmakers ahead of their 2023 sessions, including in states with more extreme bans on the table, and will discuss safeguarding rights and helping women access care as top issues. The meetings follow sit-downs with roughly nine governors, attorneys general and Democratic state legislators from more than 30 states.

The administration, meanwhile, is implementing Biden's executive orders signed in July and August that directed federal agencies to push back on abortion restrictions and protect women traveling out of their state to seek one, though some women's rights advocates say it doesn't go far enough.

And there are still other avenues left for the administration to explore, said Kathleen Sebelius, a former U.S. health and human services secretary.

HHS might look to wield its power around federal protections for health care providers, life-saving abortions, abortion pills and travel for women in abortion-restricted states, she said. During her tenure, for example, the agency did some policy maneuvering to expand rights for same-sex couples, including a requirement that any hospitals receiving federal funds allow their patients to select a same-sex partner as a visitor, years before gay marriage was legalized.

"It's amazing how broad a lot of the agency's authorities are and how much creative thinking can go on," Sebelius said.

Officers to receive Congressional Gold Medals for Jan. 6

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top House and Senate leaders will present law enforcement officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 with Congressional Gold Medals on Tuesday, awarding them Congress's highest honor nearly two years after they fought with former President Donald Trump's supporters in a brutal and bloody attack.

To recognize the hundreds of officers who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the medals will be placed in four locations — at U.S. Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution. President Joe Biden said when he signed the legislation last year that a medal will be placed at the Smithsonian museum "so all visitors can understand what happened that day."

The ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda comes as Democrats, just weeks away from losing their House majority, race to finish a nearly 18-month investigation of the insurrection. Democrats and two Republicans conducting the probe have vowed to uncover the details of the attack, which came as Trump tried to overturn his election defeat and encouraged his supporters to "fight like hell" in a rally just before the congressional certification.

Awarding the medals will be among House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's last ceremonial acts as she prepares to step down from leadership. When the bill passed the House more than a year ago, she said the law enforcement officers from across the city defended the Capitol because they were "the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self."

"They enabled us to return to the Capitol," and certify Biden's presidency, she said then, "to that podium that night to show the world that our democracy had prevailed and that it had succeeded because of them."

Dozens of the officers who fought off the rioters sustained serious injuries. As the mob of Trump's supporters pushed past them and into the Capitol, police were beaten with American flags and their own guns, dragged down stairs, sprayed with chemicals and trampled and crushed by the crowd. Officers suffered physical wounds, including brain injuries and other lifelong effects, and many struggled to work afterward because they were so traumatized.

Four officers who testified at a House hearing last year spoke openly about the lasting mental and physical scars, and some detailed near-death experiences.

Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges described foaming at the mouth, bleeding and screaming as the rioters tried to gouge out his eye and crush him between two heavy doors. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, who rushed to the scene, said he was "grabbed, beaten, tased, all while being called a traitor to my country." Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn said a large group of people shouted the N-word at him as he was trying to keep them from breaching the House chamber.

At least nine people who were at the Capitol that day died during and after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police as she tried to break into the House chamber and three other Trump supporters who suffered medical emergencies. Two police officers died by suicide in the days that immediately followed, and a third officer, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, collapsed and later died after one of the rioters sprayed him with a chemical. A medical examiner determined he died of natural causes.

Asia

Late Chinese leader Jiang hailed in memorial service

BEIJING (AP)—China's communist leaders eulogized the late leader Jiang Zemin on Tuesday as a loyal Marxist-Leninist who oversaw their country's rapid economic rise while maintaining rigid party control over society.

President and party leader Xi Jinping praised Jiang in an hour-long address at Beijing's Great Hall of the People as senior officials and military brass stood at attention.

Xi recalled Jiang's lengthy political career, emphasizing his role in maintaining political stability in allusion to Jiang's rise to be top leader just ahead of the army's bloody suppression of the 1989 student-led pro-democracy movement centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Jiang died at age 96, just days after China's largest street protests since 1989, which were driven by anger over draconian COVID-19 restrictions. Acting to quell the protests, authorities flooded city streets with security personnel and an unknown number of people have been detained.

Those attending Tuesday's memorial observed three minutes of silence and trading was paused on the country's stock exchanges.

On Monday, state broadcaster CCTV showed Xi, his predecessor Hu Jintao and others bowing before Jiang's coffin at a military hospital in Beijing before his body was sent for cremation at the Babaoshan cemetery, where many Chinese leaders are interred.

AP

Residents watch a live broadcast of the memorial service for late former Chinese President Jiang Zemin on a screen at a community center in Hong Kong, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

Jiang led China out of diplomatic isolation over the 1989 crackdown and supported economic reforms that spurred a decade of explosive growth. The economy has slowed as it matures and confronts an aging population, trade sanctions, high unemployment and the fallout from lockdowns and other anti-COVID-19 restrictions imposed by Xi.

A trained engineer and former head of China's largest city, Shanghai, Jiang was president for a decade, and led the ruling Communist Party for 13 years until 2002. After taking over from reformist leader Deng Xiaoping, he oversaw the handover of Hong Kong from British rule in 1997 and Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001.

Jiang died of leukemia and multiple organ failure on Nov. 30 in Shanghai, state media reported. The party declared him a "great proletarian revolutionary" and "long-tested Communist fighter."

Hu's appearance was his first in public since Oct. 22, when he was unexpectedly guided off the stage during the closing ceremony of the national congress of the Communist Party.

No official explanation was given, and speculation over his abrupt departure has ranged from a health crisis to a signal of protest by the 79-year-old former leader against Xi, who has eliminated term limits on his position and appointed loyalists to all top positions.

In Hong Kong, officials, lawmakers and judges observed three minutes of silence Tuesday morning.

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange did not halt trading but its external screens at Exchange Square downtown stopped showing data for three minutes. The Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange, also in Hong Kong, suspended trading briefly to mark the occasion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Adultery a punishable offense in Indonesia's new penal code

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's Parliament has passed a long-awaited and controversial revision of its penal code that criminalizes extramarital sex and applies to citizens and visiting foreigners alike. A parliamentary taskforce finalized the bill in November and lawmakers unanimously approved it Tuesday.

After ratification, the new criminal code must be signed by the president, according to Deputy Minister of Law and Human Rights Edward Hiariej. The criminal code will not apply immediately, but takes a maximum of three years to transition from the old code to the new one.

"That (the new Criminal Code) has a lot of implementing regulations that must be worked out, so it's impossible in one year, but remember the maximum (transition period) is three years," Hiariej said.

A copy of the amended criminal code obtained by The Associated Press includes several revised articles that make sex outside marriage punishable by a year in jail and cohabitation by six months, but adultery charges must be based on police reports lodged by their spouse, parents or children.

N. Korea orders new artillery firings over South's drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's military says it has ordered frontline units to conduct artillery firings into the sea for the second consecutive day in a tit-for-tat response to South Korean live-fire drills in an inland border region.

The statement by the North Korean People's Army's General Staff came a day after the North fired about 130 artillery rounds into waters near its western and eastern sea boundaries with South Korea in the latest military action raising tensions between the rivals. An unidentified North Korean military spokesperson said the planned artillery firings Tuesday were meant as a warning to the South after the North detected signs of South Korean artillery exercises in the border region.

The South Korean army is conducting live-fire exercises involving multiple rocket launching systems and howitzers in two separate testing grounds in the Cheorwon region, which began on Monday and continues through Wednesday.

World

Russia claiming Kyiv hit its air bases, fires more missiles

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian drones struck two air bases deep inside Russian territory, the Kremlin said Monday, shortly before Russian forces unleashed a massive missile barrage in Ukraine that struck homes and buildings and killed civilians.

The unprecedented attack in Russia threatened a major escalation of the nine-month war because it hit an airfield housing bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons. President Vladimir Putin has threatened to use all available means to defend his land, a remark many have interpreted to include nuclear weapons.

Russia has been launching almost weekly bombardments of Ukraine in retaliation for another bold attack — the Oct. 8 truck bombing of a vital bridge linking its mainland to the Crimean Peninsula.

On Monday, Putin tried to show his country could bounce back from that embarrassment by driving a car across the partially repaired bridge. Putin personally opened the 19-kilometer (12-mile) bridge in 2018 as part of an expensive effort to solidify his claim on Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

In Monday's retaliatory barrage, missiles knocked out basic services in several Ukrainian regions in Moscow's strategy to inflict more pain just as winter approaches. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said four people were killed in Monday's barrage.

Ukraine's air force claimed it shot down more than 60 of the 70 missiles, and Zelenskyy again showed defiance, praising workers who immediately tried to restore power.

"Every downed Russian missile is concrete proof that terror can be defeated," Zelenskyy said in his nightly address.

Ukraine said early indications showed Russia fired 38 cruise missiles from carriers in the Caspian Sea and from the southern Rostov region. In addition, 22 Kalibr cruise missiles were fired from Russia's Black Sea fleet, and long-range bombers, fighter jets and guided missiles were also involved, it said.

Electricity provider Ukrenergo said its facilities had been hit, triggering some blackouts, although the prime minister said later that power facilities were damaged in only three areas, not as widespread as in previous attacks.

In the capital of Kyiv, scores of people quickly filled the central Zoloti Vorota metro station after air raid warnings. There were no immediate signs the city or surrounding region had been hit.

Ukrainian media reported explosions south of Kyiv, in Cherkasy, Krivyi Rih and Odesa. Officials said water, electricity and central heating were cut to many parts of Odesa.

"The enemy is again attacking the territory of Ukraine with missiles!" Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, wrote on Telegram.

In neighboring Moldova, the Interior Ministry said on its Facebook page that border patrol officers had found a rocket in an orchard near the northern city of Briceni, near the border with Ukraine. A bomb squad went to the scene, but it was not immediately clear when the rocket fell or who fired it.

Confusion over Iran's religious police as women drop hijab

CAIRO (AP)—Confusion over the status of Iran's religious police grew as state media cast doubt on reports the force had been shut down. Despite the uncertainty, it has appeared for weeks that enforcement of the strict dress code has been scaled back as more women walk the streets without wearing the required headscarf.

The mixed messages have raised speculation that Iran's cleric-run leadership is considering concessions in an attempt to defuse widespread anti-government protests that are entering the third month. The protests were sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after she was detained by the religious police.

Monday marked the start of another three-day nationwide strike called by protesters. In Tehran's Grand Bazaar, about a third of the shops were closed, witnesses said. In response, Iran's judiciary chief, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejehi ordered the arrest of anyone encouraging the strike or trying to intimidate shops into shutting down.

The morality police, established in 2005, are tasked with enforcing Iran's restrictions on public behavior and strict dress codes — particularly on women, who are required to wear the hijab, or headscarf, and loose-fitting clothes.

Outrage erupted after Amini's death in the force's custody in mid-September, after she was arrested for allegedly failing to meet the dress code. Since then, the protests have expanded into calls for the ouster of Iran's clerical rulers.

On Saturday, Iran's chief prosecutor, Mohamed Jafar Montazeri, said the religious police "had been closed," in a report published by the semi-official news agency, ISNA. He was also quoted as saying that the government was reviewing the mandatory hijab law.

"We are working fast on the issue of hijab and we are doing our best to come up with a thoughtful solution to deal with this phenomenon that hurts everyone's heart," he said, without offering details.

But late Sunday, Arabic-language state outlet Al-Alam issued a report suggesting Montazeri's comments had been misunderstood. The report said the religious police were not connected to the judiciary, to which Montazeri belongs. It underlined that no official has confirmed the closure of the religious police.

It also pointed to Montazeri's further statement that "the judicial branch will continue its monitoring of behavioral reactions at the community level."

The hard-line SNN.ir news website said the morality police "has not come to an end and has not closed." But it added that "its mechanism would possibly change, a point that was under discussion before the riots." The site is close to the Basij, the feared paramilitary force under the powerful Revolutionary Guard, which is dedicated to protecting Iran's cleric-led system.

The status of the force could not be confirmed. Officials have avoided comment. When asked about Montazeri's statement by journalists in Belgrade, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian gave no direct answer.

Good Housekeeping

Hygge for the holidays

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

By now you have probably heard of hygge, the Danish term for coziness and contentment. While you can incorporate the concept into your home and lifestyle throughout the year, the holiday season is certainly the perfect time.

Looking for ways to welcome a sense of hygge this holiday season? Begin by evaluating your whole home, then look for ways to uplift each space using these tips.

Infuse scents

In nature, each season brings a fresh fragrance and overall scents. Fragrance can also help provide a sense of calm. Consider infusing winter scents into your home over the holiday season such as juniper, fig, pine and sage.

Create cozy areas

Make spaces in your home that can be used as places for you and your holiday guests to refresh, recharge and renew.

Find a focal point

Even if you don't have a fireplace for everyone to gather around, you can still rearrange your space in order to create a central area that can serve as the hub of holiday activity. Go big with creating a cozy room, or simply setting an attractive communal table.

Incorporate nature

Natural elements such as wood can help warm a space.

Play music

Find calming and soothing music or sounds like water, bells or chimes.

Provide comfort

From welcoming your guests with their own cozy throw to providing individual slippers, providing comfort is the cornerstone of hygge.

Use greenery

Evergreens and winter-hardy plants and trees not only help add freshness to a space, but will also help improve overall indoor air quality.

Change your color scheme

Adding earth tones goes a long way to adding warmth and hygge to a space. Consider warm shades of brown, green, yellow and red.

MAYA KRUCHANKOVA/DREAMSTIME/TNS
While you can incorporate hygge into your home and lifestyle throughout the year, the holiday season is certainly the perfect time.

Open the windows

Natural light not only impacts moods and helps enhance lives but improves a sense of hygge. With the sun setting earlier during winter months, you can also achieve holiday hygge by adding festive elements like string lights and candles.

The Danish are considered to be among the happiest people in the world. Why not use some of these tips to create a sense of well-being and calm into your home this holiday season?

How much does it cost to install countertops?

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The best way to calculate the cost of installing kitchen countertops is to draw a sketch of your kitchen, include all the features you want, such as backsplash, type of edging and material thickness and take the measurements to a countertop contractor.

By OSEYE BOYD
ANGIE'S LIST

While looking for new countertops, you find an amazing deal on granite for $29.99 per square foot.

Yes, score!

That sounds super-affordable, and once you measure your current countertops and calculate the square footage, you'll have the price for installing new countertops, right?

Not so fast, say countertop installers.

Pricing factors for countertops

"Some people charge for an edge and some don't, depending on what you select," says Gary Rogers, owner of AGS Stone & Tampa Bay Kitchen and Bath of Tampa, Florida. "Edge selection is going to impact price of the countertop. In our price, we include five standard edge detail options; some companies, each edge has its own price."

The real countertop installation cost not only includes the price of the material, but also the price for the tear out, modifications, edging and sealing, as well as cutouts for outlets, sinks and plumbing. Depending on the contractor, these costs may or may not be included in the per-square-foot cost of materials.

Troy Hansen, owner of Hansen's Custom Countertop Services of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, says it's extremely important to ask what's included in the square-foot price. "That's the No. 1 question you have to know."

Granite countertops and quartz countertops

Material costs also vary depending on the quality and color. Granite, a natural stone, and quartz, an engineered stone, include two of the most popular countertop types.

Countertop installers say cheap granite could signal the product has blemishes and may crack over time.

"There's only three things that make up the cost of granite—the supply and demand, the part of the world it comes from and how hard it is to excavate from the earth," says Dave Carver of Jim Carver & Sons of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Carver says his entry-level granite countertops cost $50 to $55 per square foot, while basic quartz countertops typically cost $75 to $85 per square foot.

Hansen says his basic granite countertops start around $60 to $65 per square foot, while entry-level quartz runs in the high $70 range. He says homeowners need to know the origin of the granite they plan to purchase. Highly discounted granite countertops may come from a warehouse with a huge stockpile of inferior product.

"You need to know the origin of the granite," Hansen warns. "Because it says Brazil in the name doesn't mean it came from Brazil. You need to see the paper work. If they don't have the paper work, you don't want it."

Both Hansen and Rogers say the best way to calculate the cost of installing kitchen countertops is to draw a sketch of your kitchen, include all the features you want, such as backsplash, type of edging and material thickness and take the measurements to a countertop contractor.

"Shop that," Hansen says. "Don't worry about the square foot cost because that's such a small part of it. Unless you know what's included in the square foot, it's so irrelevant."

• Burned rice? No problem. While it's still hot, carefully remove to a new pot any rice not browned or blackened. Then top it with a single slice of white bread. Allow it to sit for several minutes under a tightly fitted lid. The burned smell is absorbed by the bread, and the rice is fit to eat. — *M.U. in Michigan*

• Plastic holiday tablecloths can be a festive addition to any family celebration. But what to do if you unpack yours and it's wrinkled? Get those wrinkles out in a hurry with a hair dryer. Set the hair dryer to a low setting, and gently run the warm air over the wrinkles. Smooth and set the table.

• Freshen rugs without the heavy perfume smell of store-bought brands; Simply sprinkle a little baking soda on your carpet and let it sit for about 10 minutes before vacuuming.

• Wrap the lint from your dryer in 6-inch strips of wax paper. Roll it up, twist both ends and you have a perfect firestarter.

• For light and unbelievably fluffy pancakes, try subbing the water in your recipe with club soda. Yummo. — *E.S. in Florida*

• Add a few drops of water to votive cups before adding a candle. The wax will float on the water, and when the candle burns down, it won't get stuck in the votive glass. — *O.J. in Wyoming*

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Life & Style

Kirstie Alley, Emmy-winning 'Cheers' star, dies at 71

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kirstie Alley, a two-time Emmy winner whose roles on the TV megahit "Cheers" and in the "Look Who's Talking" films made her one of the biggest stars in American comedy in the late 1980s and early 1990s, died Monday. She was 71.

Alley died of cancer that was only recently discovered, her children True and Lillie Parker said in a post on Twitter. Alley's manager Donovan Daughtry confirmed the death in an email to The Associated Press.

"As iconic as she was on screen, she was an even more amazing mother and grandmother," her children's statement said.

She starred opposite Ted Danson as Rebecca Howe on "Cheers," the beloved NBC sitcom about a Boston bar, from 1987 to 1993. She joined the show at the height of its popularity after the departure of original star Shelley Long.

Alley would win an Emmy for best lead actress in a comedy series for the role in 1991.

"I only thank God I didn't have to wait as long as Ted," Alley said in her acceptance, gently ribbing Danson, who had finally won an Emmy for his "Cheers" role as Sam Malone in his eighth nomination the previous year.

She would take a second Emmy for best lead actress in a miniseries or television movie in 1993 for playing the title role in the CBS TV movie "David's Mother."

She had her own sitcom on the network, "Veronica's Closet," from 1997 to 2000.

In the 1989 comedy "Look Who's Talking," which gave her a major career boost, she played the mother of a baby who's inner thoughts were voiced by Bruce Willis. She would also appear in a 1990 sequel "Look Who's Talking Too," and another in 1993, "Look Who's Talking Now."

AP

Kirstie Alley attends the premiere of HBO's "Girls" on Jan. 5, 2015, in New York.

John Travolta, her co-star in the trilogy, paid her tribute in an Instagram post.

"Kirstie was one of the most special relationships I've ever had," Travolta said, along with a photo of Alley. "I love you Kirstie. I know we will see each other again."

She would play a fictionalized version of herself in the 2005 Showtime series "Fat Actress," a show that drew comedy from her public and media treatment over her weight gain and loss.

She dealt with the same subject matter in the 2010 A&E reality series "Kirstie Alley's Big Life," which chronicled her attempt to lose weight and launch a weight-loss program while working as a single mother in an unconventional household that included pet lemurs.

Alley said she agreed to do the show in part because of the misinformation about her that had become a tabloid staple.

"Anything bad you can say about me, they say," Alley told the AP at the time. "I've never collapsed, fainted, passed out. Basically, anything they've said, I never. The only true thing is I got fat."

In recent years she appeared on several other reality shows, including a second-place finish on "Dancing With the Stars" in 2011. She appeared on the competition series "The Masked Singer" wearing a baby mammoth costume earlier this year.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Road Trippin'—Red Hot Chili Peppers unveil 2023 tour

NEW YORK (AP)—There's no rest for the spicy: Fresh off a world tour and two albums this year, Red Hot Chili Peppers are preparing for a set of stadium shows and festival stops across North America and Europe in 2023. Live Nation said Monday the band's 23-date global trek kicks off March 29 at BC Place in Vancouver, followed by shows in Las Vegas, San Diego, Houston, Lisbon, Madrid, Vienna and more before wrapping up on July 23 in Glasgow, Scotland. Joining the band on select dates will be The Strokes, Iggy Pop, The Roots, The Mars Volta, St. Vincent, City and Colour, Thundercat and King Princess. Tickets go on sale starting Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. local time at redhotchilipeppers.com. The funk-rock band gave us not one but two albums in 2022—October's "Return of the Dream Canteen" and April's "Unlimited Love." Both spent time at No. 1 of Billboard's top album sales chart.

Man who shot Lady Gaga's dog walker gets 21 years in prison

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man who shot and wounded Lady Gaga's dog walker while stealing her French bulldogs last year took a plea deal and was sentenced to 21 years in prison on Monday, officials said. The Lady Gaga connection was a coincidence, authorities have said. The motive was the value of the French bulldogs, a breed that can run into the thousands of dollars, and detectives do not believe the thieves knew the dogs belonged to the musician. James Howard Jackson, one of three men and two accomplices who participated in the violent robbery and its aftermath, pleaded no contest to one count of attempted murder, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. It was not immediately clear which attorney represented Howard on Monday. The pop star's dog walker, Ryan Fischer, was seriously wounded in the attack and addressed the court Monday to give an impact statement, which he posted on Instagram.

Judd family files notice to dismiss suit over death records

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The family of country singer Naomi Judd on Monday filed a notice to voluntarily dismiss a lawsuit that sought to block journalists from accessing the police investigation records surrounding her death. Judd died on April 30 at her home in Tennessee at the age of 76. Her daughter Ashley has previously said that her mother killed herself, and the family said she was lost to "the disease of mental illness." Judd's family filed a petition in Williamson County Chancery Court in August seeking to seal the report of the death investigation. The petition said the records contained video and audio interviews with relatives in the immediate aftermath of Judd's death. Releasing such details would inflict "significant trauma and irreparable harm" on the family, the petition said.

Lawyer: Man charged in Takeoff killing says he's innocent

HOUSTON (AP)—An attorney for a man accused of fatally shooting rapper Takeoff last month said Monday that the musician's death outside a Houston bowling alley was a tragedy but that her client says he's innocent of the crime. Patrick Xavier Clark, 33, made a brief court appearance in which prosecutors and his defense attorneys agreed to hold a bond reduction hearing on Dec. 14. Clark was arrested on a murder charge last week and is jailed on a $2 million bond. Clark, handcuffed and dressed in orange jail clothing, did not say anything during Monday's hearing. Letitia Quinones, one of Clark's attorneys, told reporters after the hearing that Clark is feeling "nervous and he's concerned" because "he's being charged with something that he believes he's innocent of, so how would anyone do in that type of circumstance?"

Newlywed divides time with wife and co-worker mistress

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my wife for a little over a year. I love her. However, right before our wedding, I met a co-worker I'll call "Alexis." We hit it off, and I consider her a close friend.

Alexis and I hooked up a few times before and after my wedding. We never discuss the encounters after they happen. After we've had a few drinks, we both say things about being together, but usually, we're just best friends. While my friends believe this is odd, it's almost a blessing that the awkward conversation doesn't happen after a night of something happening.

There have been instances when I have ditched my wife to hang out with Alexis—not to do anything, but just to hang out with her and her mother. My wife says I spend too much time with Alexis between work and after work, but she's fun to be with. My wife is kind of a homebody. She doesn't like to go out and have a good time.

My wife doesn't trust Alexis, and while I can't blame her, I'm conflicted about what my next step should be. I love my wife, but I also love Alexis as more than a friend, and I know she feels the same. What should I do next?

LOVES THEM BOTH

DEAR LOVES: You may love both of these women, but you are being fair to neither one. Your wife doesn't trust Alexis because she senses something is wrong—and she's right. You and Alexis aren't buddies; you are lovers. That you have confided it to friends "who think this is odd" (in your words) means it is just a matter of time until your wife is in on the secret. Your first loyalty should be to your wife. At the very least, you owe it to her to have an honest discussion with her and figure out WITH HER what the next steps should be.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been going to the same dentist for 20 years. We have always had the same dental hygienist. There's a computer in the room where she works, and she always schedules our next six-month cleaning with her before we leave. Over the years, we have noticed that she's not very clean. She is sometimes very unkempt -- with greasy hair and body odor. Her treatment room is also very messy. The last time I was there, she opened her cupboard, and I was appalled at the junk crammed in there. We are concerned that this is unsanitary and we no longer want to see her.

We love our dentist and the office staff. They are the nicest, most considerate and professional people. I would like to call and ask the front desk to reschedule our appointments with the other hygienist and include in our files that we only want to see that one. My husband thinks we should switch dentists. To be honest, I'm shocked the dentist would tolerate this, but he is a kind individual, and maybe that's the problem. Any advice would be appreciated.

DENTAL DRAMA IN THE EAST

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DRAMA: You should have discussed this with your dentist years ago. Your concerns are valid. It is your right to be treated by another hygienist for the reasons you have stated. However, for your dentist's sake, as well as your own, tell him exactly why you felt it was necessary to make the change. It will be doing the practice a favor.

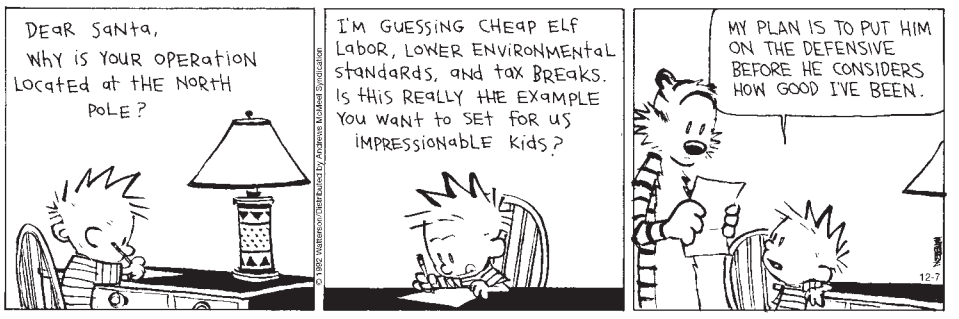
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DEAR SANTA, WHY IS YOUR OPERATION LOCATED AT THE NORTH POLE?
I'M GUESSING CHEAP ELF LABOR, LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, AND TAX BREAKS. IS THIS REALLY THE EXAMPLE YOU WANT TO SET FOR US IMPRESSIONABLE KIDS?
MY PLAN IS TO PUT HIM ON THE DEFENSIVE BEFORE HE CONSIDERS HOW GOOD I'VE BEEN.
12-7

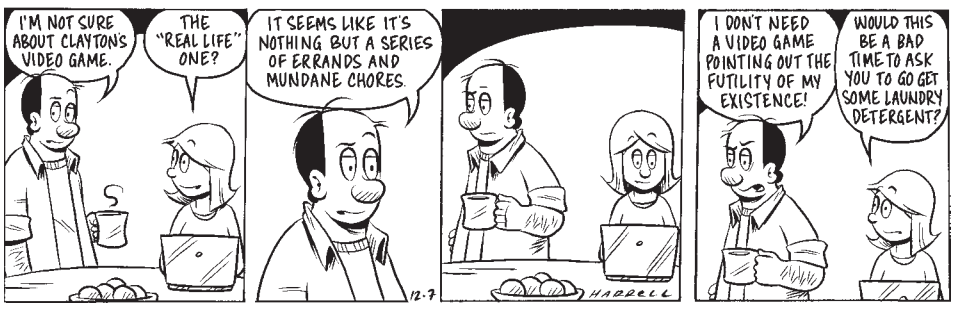
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M LISTING ALL THE NICE THINGS I'VE DONE THIS YEAR
I'M LISTING ALL THE NOT-SO-TERRIBLE THINGS I'VE DONE THIS YEAR
JIM DAVIS 12-7

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT SURE ABOUT CLAYTON'S VIDEO GAME.
THE "REAL LIFE" ONE?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S NOTHING BUT A SERIES OF ERRANDS AND MUNDANE CHORES.
12-7
I DON'T NEED A VIDEO GAME POINTING OUT THE FUTILITY OF MY EXISTENCE!
WOULD THIS BE A BAD TIME TO ASK YOU TO GO GET SOME LAUNDRY DETERGENT?
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Comic Caesar
4 Heavy mists
8 Gym pads
12 Chi follower
13 Redact
14 Luau strings
15 Golfer Ernie
16 Trial VIP
18 Chocolate source
20 Use a straw
21 Bikini parts
24 River of Rome
28 Conquered
32 Differently
33 Hot temper
34 Rescued
36 Salt Lake athlete
37 Building wings
39 Postponement
41 "I cannot — lie"
43 Actress Meg
44 Historic time
46 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
50 Seekers of political asylum
55 Sound of surprise
56 Royal Norwegian name
57 Inspiration
58 Gift topper
59 Taunt
60 Madrid miss (Abbr.)
61 Scale member

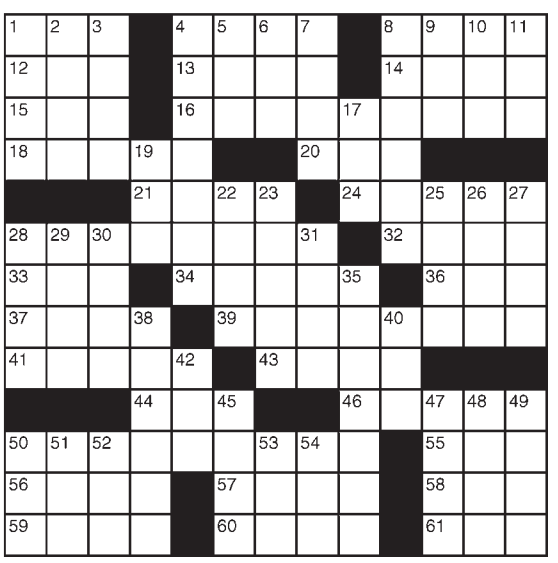
DOWN

1 Detail, briefly
2 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
3 Platter
4 Felt hats
5 Poem of praise
6 Computer image, briefly
7 Fr. holy women
8 Kid's "dessert"
9 Alias abbr.
10 Sawbuck
11 Concorde, e.g.
17 Quibble
19 Honest politician
22 Slightly
23 Cut off
25 Fuzzy image
26 "Como — usted?"
27 Stagger
28 Regimen
29 Mystery writer Gardner
30 Toppled
31 Challenge
35 World's lowest lake
38 Jacket part
40 Genetic letters
42 Lob's path
45 $ dispensers
47 Filches
48 Sneeze syllable
49 Caterwaul
50 Pooch
51 NFL's Manning
52 "Terrif!"
53 Wilder's "— Town"
54 Trio after Q

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	P	U	D	■	R	A	F	T	■	S	R	I
T	A	T	E	■	E	P	E	E	■	L	A	C
D	R	A	F	T	B	E	E	R	■	A	G	O
■	■	■	I	M	A	X	■	R	A	M	E	N
B	R	O	N	C	■	■	V	O	I	D	■	■
L	O	V	E	■	B	E	E	R	R	U	N	S
U	K	E	■	G	E	N	E	S	■	N	Y	E
R	U	N	S	O	V	E	R	■	S	K	E	W
■	■	T	I	N	Y	■	■	L	I	S	T	S
T	R	I	A	D	■	P	E	T	E	■	■	■
H	U	M	■	O	V	E	R	D	R	A	F	T
U	S	E	■	L	E	A	S	■	R	O	O	K
D	E	R	■	A	X	L	E	■	A	L	P	O

Yesterday's answer 12-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emily Browning, 34; C. Thomas Howell, 56; Tom Waits, 73; Ellen Burstyn, 90.

Happy Birthday: Make it clear what you want to achieve this year. Refuse to let any use of emotional manipulation sway you in a different direction. Take pride in what you do, and don't take your eye off your goal until you are satisfied with the results. Avoid over-the-top suggestions and stick to a simple, affordable strategy that takes you where you want to go. Your numbers are 6, 19, 26, 29, 35, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Revisit how you earn your living and what options you have that can bring in extra cash. Don't act prematurely; get everything in order before you change direction or add to your responsibilities. Make preparation a priority, and success will be yours. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* The changes that occur will cause confusion and uncertainty. When in doubt, take a step back and observe. Don't overreact or give the wrong impression to someone who can influence your life, position or future. Don't spend or indulge foolishly. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick to what and who you know best. Trusting someone you barely know will put you in a vulnerable position. Be observant, but don't make promises that might jeopardize your status, reputation or health. Discipline is necessary in order to avoid temptation. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Times are changing and so are you. Let your intuition lead the way. The ideas you come up with will put you in a unique position that helps you and others. A plan to make your money stretch will lower debt. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Plan to have fun and get things done. Surround yourself with like-minded people who share your concerns, and you'll find a way to unify and protect what's important to you. Set the standard instead of adopting a plan you don't condone. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stick to your original plan, regardless of what others decide to do. Be creative, use your imagination and create exciting experiences that lead to personal growth and new beginnings. Follow your heart and do what's right and best for you. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Work alone and control whatever situation you face, or someone else will step in and take over. Don't believe everything you hear or trust someone pushy or tempting you to engage in lavish behavior or joint ventures. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to detail when negotiating or investing. Listen to your inner voice, not a fast-talking salesperson, and you'll avoid spending on things you don't need. Make saving your goal. Get a second opinion regarding money, illness or contracts. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Trust yourself and you won't be disappointed. Be aware of individuals who try to take advantage of you. Take the initiative to run the show instead of being an onlooker. Practice moderation and strive for self-improvement. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Open your doors to people who make you think and offer alternative opinions and options that can help you bring about positive change. Show enthusiasm when helping; your input will boost morale and encourage others to provide their services. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make home improvements that add to your comfort or encourage you to live a healthy lifestyle. Pay attention to what others do or say, and associate with people who tend to pep you up. Attitude is everything. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Size up situations, see who is on your side and head in a direction that draws like-minded people. Don't trust anyone who uses niceties to persuade you to do things you shouldn't. Know when to say no and walk away from temptation. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, unique and enthusiastic. You are innovative and persistent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9	6			4			
4			7		1			
			8		3		4	
			2		5		7	
		5			7	3	8	4
	1						2	
7							6	
2							1	
8	3	1	9				5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/07

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	2	5	6	1	7	3	9	4
4	7	9	3	2	8	1	6	5
6	1	3	5	9	4	2	8	7
1	4	2	7	8	5	6	3	9
7	3	8	4	6	9	5	2	1
5	9	6	1	3	2	7	4	8
2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
3	5	4	8	7	6	9	1	2
9	8	1	2	5	3	4	7	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S INCANDESCENT **Solution: 7 letters**

E	E	S	R	A	E	C	N	A	I	L	L	I	R	B
M	G	S	P	M	A	W	O	D	N	I	Ⓦ	B	M	L
A	A	L	B	A	T	T	E	R	Y	G	Ⓞ	E	S	A
L	T	E	A	N	R	L	E	U	F	H	Ⓛ	A	H	Z
F	L	T	W	S	O	K	R	I	D	T	Ⓖ	M	I	I
L	O	I	I	I	S	E	L	I	N	B	D	I	N	N
U	V	H	R	P	W	A	N	E	G	U	I	N	E	G
O	O	W	E	O	M	V	R	T	S	L	V	G	N	G
R	L	A	P	E	E	A	E	R	H	B	I	A	R	N
E	C	T	N	N	P	L	L	H	E	E	V	N	E	I
S	A	T	T	S	D	L	A	T	E	M	R	N	T	M
C	N	I	N	N	E	T	L	O	M	A	M	M	N	A
E	O	A	A	T	E	L	K	N	I	W	T	I	A	E
N	R	C	O	I	L	S	U	O	N	I	M	U	L	L
T	E	M	P	E	R	A	T	U	R	E	R	A	L	G

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Amps, Battery, Beaming, Blazing, Brilliance, Candle, Coils, Filament, Flame, Fluorescent, Fuel, Glare, Glass, Gleaming, Glimmer, Glint, Glow, Heat, Invention, Lamp, Lantern, Lightbulb, Luminous, Melt, Metal, Molten, Neon, Power, Shine, Sparkles, Temperature, Thermal, Transparent, Twinkle, Vivid, Volcano, Voltage, Watt, White, Window, Wire

Yesterday's Answer: Univalve

Purchase the NEW **Treasury 50** in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Leonard hits go-ahead shot in return, Clippers beat Hornets

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kawhi Leonard had 16 points, including an 18-foot jumper with 1.4 seconds to lift the Los Angeles Clippers to a 119-117 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night in his return from a right ankle sprain.

Paul George also came back from a strained hamstring to score 19 points along with seven assists for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game losing streak. Reggie Jackson and Nic Batum each had 13 points, and John Wall added 12 points and 12 assists off the bench.

Luke Kennard added nine points off the bench in his first game back from an injury as well.

Kelly Oubre had 28 points and P.J. Washington bounced back from an 0-for-13 shooting night on Saturday night to add 26 for the Hornets. Washington missed a fadeaway jumper as time expired that would have tied the game.

AP

A Clippers guard John Wall and forward Kawhi Leonard (2) celebrate after taking the lead against the Charlotte Hornets during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Rockets 132, 76ers 123, 2 OT

In Houston, Jalen Green scored 27 points and Kevin Porter Jr. added 24 to lead Houston over Philadelphia as James Harden struggled through his return from injury.

Harden had 21 points but shot 4 for 19 from the field in his first game since Nov. 2. Coach Doc Rivers said Harden, who spent just more than eight seasons with the Rockets before being traded to Brooklyn in January 2021, would be on a minutes restriction in his return. But Harden didn't seem to be limited much, and played 39 minutes.

He had missed 14 games with a tendon strain in his right foot. He missed all eight attempts inside the 3-point arc but still got to the line like he always does and made 9 of 10 free throws.

Joel Embiid had 39 points before fouling out late in the first overtime and Tobias Harris added 27 as the Sixers dropped their third straight.

Mavericks 130, Suns 111

In Dallas, Luka Doncic scored 33 points, Spencer Dinwiddie added 21 and Dallas preserved a big lead against Phoenix this time.

The Mavericks remained in control after a 28-8 run covering most of the last 10 minutes of the first quarter while ending a 10-game, regular-season losing streak against the Western Conference-leading Suns.

Dallas squandered a 22-point lead in the second half of a 107-105 loss at Phoenix in the season opener between teams that met in the West semifinals last season. Dallas won that series last spring with a Game 7 rout on the Suns' home court.

Deandre Ayton scored 20 points for the Suns, who couldn't recover from a 15-point first quarter, their lowest total in any quarter this season, as they finished a Texas back-to-back after a blowout victory in San Antonio.

Celtics 116, Raptors 110

In Toronto, Jayson Tatum had 31 points and 12 rebounds, Jaylen Brown scored 22 points and Boston won for the seventh time in eight games, beating Toronto.

Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart scored 18 points for Boston after sitting out Sunday's win at Brooklyn because of a bruised left hip.

Blake Griffin scored 13 points and Luke Kornet had 11 for the Celtics, who own the NBA's best record at 20-5. Boston is 16-2 since starting the season 4-3.

Pascal Siakam scored 29 points, Scottie Barnes had 21 and Gary Trent Jr. 20, but Toronto lost for the first time in four home games. The Raptors are 9-3 north of the border this season.

Pacers 112, Warriors 104

In San Francisco, rookie Andrew Nembhard scored a season-high 31 points and added 13 assists and eight rebounds to lead undermanned Indiana over Golden State.

A second-round draft pick, Nembhard made a key 3-pointer with 4:26 to go and another jumper less than two minutes later. Indiana played without starting point guard Tyrese Haliburton for a second straight game as he nurses soreness in his left groin.

Klay Thompson scored 28 points and made eight 3-pointers on the six-year anniversary of his 60-point masterpiece against the Pacers.

Thompson finished 9 of 23, but Stephen Curry was held to 12 points on 3-for-17 shooting. Jordan Poole scored 23 starting in place of Andrew Wiggins as he sat out with tightness of the adductor muscle in his right leg.

Bucks 109, Magic 102

In Orlando, Fla., Giannis Antetokounmpo scored five of his 34 points in the final two minutes to help Milwaukee hold off a late Orlando rally.

Bobby Portis added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, and Jrue Holiday added 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Franz Wagner led Orlando with 25 points. Markelle Fultz and Paolo Banchero added 20 points apiece. Banchero also had 12 rebounds for the Magic, who lost their ninth straight.

Antetokounmpo, Sandro Mamukelashvili and Holiday hit 3-pointers on a 16-0 Milwaukee run midway through the first half while Orlando went scoreless for 5 1/2 minutes. The spurt left the Bucks with an 11-point lead that they stretched to 15 midway through the period.

Grizzlies 101, Heat 93

In Memphis, Tenn., Tyus Jones had a career-high 28 points and 10 assists to lead shorthanded Memphis over Miami.

Santi Aldama added 18 points and Dillon Brooks finished with 17 for Memphis, which played without leading scorer Ja Morant and several other key players.

Tyler Herro led the Heat with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Jimmy Butler, who had only one field goal in the first half, scored 18, and Caleb Martin finished with 16 for the Heat.

Both teams entered the game having won four of their previous five games, and that included a Memphis win over Detroit on Sunday. But playing the second night of a back-to-back meant several Grizzlies, in addition to Morant, were unavailable. Three of the five most recent starters—Morant, Jaren Jackson Jr. and John Konchar—were out, leaving a load of minutes for reserves and two-way players.

Thunder 121, Hawks114

In Atlanta, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Josh Giddey had 12 of his 17 points in the final period, and Oklahoma City overcame a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to beat Atlanta.

Dejounte Murray finished with 24 points and Trae Young had 23 points and 10 assists for the Hawks (13-11), who have squandered six double-digit leads this season. They began the night tied for second-most in the NBA in that category.

In winning its third straight, Oklahoma City (11-13) has outscored its last three opponents 106-68 in the fourth. The Thunder trailed 88-84 entering the final period.

Giddey's three-point play early in the fourth made it 91-90 for the Thunder's first lead since late in the first. They never trailed again as Gilgeous-Alexander, the league's third-leading scorer, kept hitting free throws down the stretch. He scored 12 points in the fourth and finished 15 for 15 from the foul line.

Brady throws for 2 late TDs, Buccaneers beat Saints, 17-16

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A relieved Tom Brady stepped to the podium with a big smile.

"Just like we drew it up," the seven-time Super Bowl quarterback said after throwing a pair of touchdown passes in the final three minutes Monday night to help the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rally from a 13-point deficit and beat the New Orleans Saints 17-16.

Clearly frustrated and on the verge of being held without a TD pass at home by the Saints for the third straight season, Brady led scoring drives of 91 and 63 yards and the Bucs (6-6) back to .500, tightening the team's grip on first place in the weak NFC South.

"We've had a lot of games come down to the end," Brady said. "Some we've won, some we've lost, which is why we're 6-6. It's not where we want to be, but we'll keep fighting."

The 45-year-old quarterback tossed a one-yard TD pass to rookie Cade Otton, pulling within 16-10 with exactly three minutes remaining. He got the ball back with 2:29 to go, then won it with a 6-yard throw to another rookie, Rachaad White, with three seconds left.

"They played hard, they showed grit. It was a complete team effort, obviously," Bucs coach Todd Bowles said. "Defense got the ball back, the offense cashed it in. Got it back one more time, cashed it in one more time."

The Saints (4-9) swept the season series between the division rivals each of the past two seasons, holding Brady without a TD pass in a 38-3 New Orleans rout in 2020 and again in a 9-0 road victory in 2021.

Tampa Bay ended a seven-game, regular-season losing streak in the series with a 20-10 victory in Week 2, sacking Jameis Winston six times and forcing five turnovers.

Andy Dalton, who didn't play in the earlier meetings, threw for 225 yards and a touchdown without an interception for New Orleans, however the Saints ultimately paid for having to settle for three field goals by Wil Lutz on drives deep into Bucs territory.

The Bucs rebounded from an overtime loss to Cleveland to extend their division lead over the Atlanta Falcons to 1½ games.

The last-place Saints missed out on an opportunity to pull into a tie for second with the Falcons. None of the four teams in the NFC South has a winning record.

"I've got to go into a bye week knowing that we should have beat this team," Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan said. "The first time we should have beat this team. This time we should have. ... We should have beat a lot of other teams. We didn't."

Brady, who before the game exchanged greetings with the biggest prize on this winter's baseball free agent market AL MVP Aaron Judge, finished 36 of 54 for 281 yards and two touchdowns.

The Bucs quarterback led a long field goal drive on the opening possession of the game, but only had sporadic success after that until finally get the Bucs in the end zone with help from a 44-yard pass interference on Saints cornerback Paulson Adebo.

Otton scored on the next play.

"Tom Brady is Tom Brady. He was meticulous in staying to the plan of his dink and dunk," Jordan said. "He had the one prayer that he sent out there and got bailed out with the flag."

A week after being shutout for the first time in 332 games, the Saints built a 10-3 halftime lead on Dalton's 30-yard scoring pass to Taysom Hill and a 38-yard field goal set up by just the third interception Brady has thrown all season.

Demario Davis' pick was also only the eighth takeaway New Orleans defense — by far a league-low — in 13 games. Defensive end Cameron Jordan later forced a fumble that the Saints turned into a 12-play, 7-minute, 20-second drive that Lutz finished with a 21-yard field goal, making it 13-3 late in the third quarter.

"We didn't make the plays when they were there at the end of the game and they did. That's what it came down to," Dalton said. "We had opportunities for that game to be very different than what it was, and I feel like I'm a broken record saying the same thing. We just missed opportunities."

CELEBRITY SIGHTING

Judge was on the sidelines before the game — posing for pictures, signing autographs and wearing a Mike Evans No. 13 Buccaneers jersey. The team also tweeted a short video of Brady greeting the slugger, who has an offseason home in Tampa, where the New York Yankees hold spring training. Judge set an American League record with 62 homers with the Yankees this year. He also led the AL with 131 RBIs and finished second with a .311 batting average.

Neymar scores, Brazil beats South Korea 4-1 at World Cup

By TALES AZZONI
AP SPORTS WRITER

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—It was the same old Neymar out there, looking fit and scoring a goal to move closer to Pelé's all-time record and lead Brazil into the World Cup quarterfinals.

Neymar returned from injury and converted a first-half penalty in Brazil's 4-1 win over South Korea in the round of 16 on Monday. He reached 76 goals with the national team, one shy of the mark set by Pelé, who said he would watch the match from his hospital bed in Sao Paulo.

"I was very scared," Neymar said. "It was very difficult after getting injured like I did. I was crying the entire night. My family knows what I had to go through. But in the end it all worked out. It was worth the effort to keep undergoing physiotherapy."

The 82-year-old Pelé is recovering from a respiratory infection that was aggravated by COVID-19, leaving fans in Brazil and in Qatar worried about his condition. Neymar carried a banner with the soccer great's image and "Pelé" written on it after the match, and the entire team then posed behind it near midfield.

"It's tough to talk about Pelé with what he is going through," Neymar said. "We wish he can get well soon. We hope we made him feel a bit more comfortable with the banner and with the victory."

South Korea was trying to advance past the round of 16 for the first time since its historic run to the semifinals as a co-host in 2002.

Neymar damaged ligaments in his right ankle in the team's opening match against Serbia and at the time there were doubts if he would play again at the World Cup. He was clearly back, and there were no signs of the injury as he led Brazil to a comfortable victory and a spot in the World Cup quarterfinals for the eighth straight time.

Brazil will next play Croatia on Friday.

Neymar scored his first goal of this year's World Cup after kissing the ball and calmly sending a low shot from the spot after waiting the goalkeeper to choose a side in the 13th minute. He danced as his teammates huddled around him, then did dance moves along with Vinícius Junior and other teammates before raising his arms to the sky and smiling broadly.

AP

Brazil's Neymar celebrates scoring his side's second goal during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Brazil and South Korea, at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

Neymar was forced out of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil after getting hurt in the quarterfinals. On Monday, he joined Pelé and Ronaldo with goals for Brazil in three different World Cups.

Fans chanted his name as he walked off the field after the match. He had been substituted in the 81st.

Vinícius Júnior scored the first goal from inside the area after a cross by Raphinha in the seventh minute, Richarlison added to the lead from close range after a nice exchange of passes by the Brazilians in the 29th, and Lucas Paquetá scored the fourth before halftime after an assist by Vinícius Júnior.

They celebrated each goal by dancing, and even Brazil coach Tite participated in Richarlison's traditional "pigeon" celebration.

Paik Seung-ho scored South Korea's goal in the 76th minute.

South Korea coach Paulo Bento said after the match he was quitting. The Portuguese coach took over the national team after the last World Cup and his contract was due to end after this year's tournament.

TRIBUTE TO PELÉ

There were many banners and shirts honoring Pelé at Stadium 974, and fans chanted the Brazil great's name and opened a large banner with his image behind one of the goals in the 10th minute of each half. Pelé used to wear the No. 10 jersey.

STADIUM DISMANTLED

It was the last World Cup match at Stadium 974, which is expected to be fully dismantled. The port-side structure that seats more than 40,000 fans was partially built from recycled shipping containers and could be shipped to other countries that need the infrastructure.

BUDHI

From Page 20

"Under the leadership of MATTA president Steve Lim we got a bronze and gold medal. After that the CNMI team was unable to participate in the Micronesian Games in Pohnpei (2014) and Yap (2018) due to funding and internal problems."

Gurung's hope is that there will be a revival in the sport of ping-pong in the CNMI and that table tennis players will regain lost glory in regional competitions like the Pacific Games, Mini Games, and Micronesian Games.

"Even in 2023, the CNMI would not be able to participate though they have a strong young team now and I do hope that they might get a gold medal if they joined. Someone should really help CNMI table tennis to participate as they are practicing every Tuesday and Friday at TransAmerica Hardware regularly."

He also wishes more women players to pick up table tennis.

"We must encourage women players to play ping-pong because like the Guam table tennis association, the CNMI currently has no women's team. Only Palau, Pohnpei, and Marshall Islands have."

Hopefully, Gurung said he might be able to facilitate a CNMI-Guam friendly table tennis tournament once again as he will now be active in Guam's ping-pong association.

"I want to bring Guam table tennis players to compete against CNMI table tennis players in the near future because CNMI team members cannot travel to Guam due to their CW-1 work permit."

As for his own plans in the sport, Gurung is looking forward to taking part in the World Veteran Table Tennis Championship in 2024.

Gurung first fell in love with table tennis when he was 15 years old. Through sheer persistence and practice he then became a champion when he was 18 while working for a company in India.

There was a long lull after that championship due to marriage, having children, and returning to his native Nepal.

He started to play the sport again to keep himself fit and practiced thrice a week. In 1995, he played in the masters category of the All Nepal Table Tennis Championship and took home a bronze medal.

As well as ping-pong, Gurung also played cricket, soccer, badminton, tennis, volleyball, and basketball in his youth.

He arrived on Saipan in 1997 to work as a team leader at Hyatt Regency Saipan. He worked at the Garapan landmark for six years before moving to Sablan Topline in 2003 as laundry supervisor after Hyatt Regency outsourced its laundry services.

He left Sablan Topline in 2016 to join Imperial Pacific Resort as laundry manager then moved to Pacific Islands Club Saipan where he worked as housekeeping supervisor from 2017 to 2020. He was laid off two years ago due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As he embarks on a new journey 215 kilometers south of Saipan, Gurung could only look back to what many perceive as the golden age of table tennis in the Northern Marianas.

"CNMI table tennis players used to be a strong team in 2006 during the Micronesian Games hosted by the CNMI and took a lot of medals and was the No. 1 among seven teams, but a lot of good CNMI table tennis players already left to U.S. and now, I am the last person to leave Saipan."

QUEENS

From Page 20

three runs in the fourth inning after being silenced in the first three, and could only hit three more for the rest of the game.

The Queens of Diamond and the Hot Shots will play the first game of the best-of-3 championship series at 9am this Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Dandan Softball Field. The championship series will continue on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 10am.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 19

aggressively to equalize six minutes later, then Allyssa Angeles took the lead in the 43rd minute, and eventually scored the third goal in the 52nd minute.

Kanoa is second in the league with three wins and one loss.

TakeCare FC 8, Chamorritas 2

In Week 3 of the season, TakeCare FC overpowered Chamorritas, 8-2.

The TakeCare women took care of the ball as they attacked the net consecutively. Pia Ngewakl goaled four times, Summer Manahane scored two goals, while Rizza Relucio and Raena Ramarui both scored one goal each.

Rosie Jean Saralu scored Chamorittas' two goals.

Chamorritas is currently at the bottom of the standings with four losses, while Take Care is in third place with a 1-3 win-loss card.

Shirley's FC 2, Kanoa FC 0

Shirley's FC silenced Kanoa FC, 2-0, with Jannah Casarino scoring both goals.

CROATIA

From Page 20

effort from the second penalty, and then again to his right to deny Maya Yoshida off the fourth.

That gave Mario Pasalic the chance to put away the clinching penalty. The substitute joined the rest of Croatia's jubilant players in heading right for Livakovic after hitting the back of the net.

"In Croatia, we do things this way," Livakovic said. "I continued the tradition."

The similarities with 2018 do not stop there. Just like in every game in the knockout stage that year, Croatia fell behind to Japan when Daizen Maeda swept in a close-range finish in the 43rd.

Ivan Perisic equalized by meeting Dejan Lovren's cross from the right with a header into the bottom corner from near the penalty spot in the 57th.

Dalic said his team's ability to recover from losing positions "reflects the Croatian people," with a nod to a psyche the players forged growing up in a country ravaged by war as the former Yugoslavia broke up in the 1990s.

"We never give up ... We have been through so much pain and the players have great pride," Dalic said. "The whole of Croatia is supporting us and this is a way of giving them faith for a better tomorrow."

While Croatia — also a semifinalist in 1998 — prepares to take on Brazil in the quarterfinals, Japan exits a World Cup in the round of 16 for the fourth time, just like in 2002, 2010 and 2018. The Asian team also lost in a penalty shootout to Paraguay at that stage in 2010.

Asia is still waiting for a second team to advance beyond the last 16, after South Korea on home soil in 2002.

Japan made its mark in Qatar, though, beating Germany and Spain — two of the last three World Cup champions — in huge upsets in the group stage.

"The players showed a new era of Japanese football, I think," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said. "They should use this feeling of being upset and try to go further next time.

"We cannot be superheroes in one go. We have to improve step by step. But Japan is reaching a level where we can play on the world stage."

The result guarantees at least one more World Cup game for 37-year-old Croatia captain Luka Modric, one of the best midfielders of his generation. The 2018 world player of the year had a quiet game, save for one pass with the outside of his right foot that sent Perisic away for a shot on goal in the first half.

Modric was substituted in the first half of extra time and wasn't part of the shootout.

COACH'S CONFIDENCE

Dalic never doubted Livakovic in the shootout. "Yesterday during training, we practiced penalty kicks and he really saved many shots," Dalic said. "So when we started the shootout, I was very confident. He proved to be like Subasic in Russia." Three of Croatia's four penalty-takers were substitutes.

CROATIA'S ENDURANCE

Since 1998, all of Croatia's knockout matches at a World Cup or European Championship have gone to extra time except for the 2018 World Cup final loss to France.

RECORD SCORER

With his goal, Perišić became the first Croatia player to score 10 goals at major tournaments.

‘Motocross is definitely back in the Marianas’

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda receives a token that reads “gratitude” in Chamorro from Guam Motorcycle and ATV Club president Jeff Rios shortly before the latter flew back to Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Former Marianas Racing Association president Steve Sablan in action during the Turkey Cross Race held last Nov. 26 and 27 at the Cowtown Race Track.

Christmas came early for members of the Marianas Racing Association after the CNMI’s motocross community hosted the Guam Motorcycle and ATV Club in the Turkey Cross Race held last Nov. 26 and 27 at the Cowtown Race Track.

MRA president Charles Cepeda was as giddy as a kid on Christmas morning when he talked about the renewal of the CNMI vs. Guam rivalry in the sport

“Motocross is definitely back in the Marianas. The riders in the Turkey Cross Race are testament that it will continue into the far future and will have some great motocross legends from the Marianas. It is the first race since 2006 or 2007 that featured riders from both islands. Riders from both islands were feeling each other out, Saipan riders had advantage with their home track at Cowtown Raceway Park, while Guam riders had one and a half days of practice on the track. I say both have very talented riders that will eventually be friendly rivalries as both islands continue to grow in motocross,” he said.

Cepeda said MRA was extremely happy with the number of riders from Guam that flew north and participated in the annual Turkey Cross. They were also equally stoked on how the local motocross community welcomed the guests.

“Around 36 racers from age 4 to 66 years old came from Guam. There were fans who came on Friday during practice and even more on Saturday all day. On Sunday we had a great crowd that were treated to an adrenaline-filled race between Guam and CNMI.”

As far as the competition went, Cepeda couldn’t ask for more as both the CNMI and Guam battled tooth and nail to win races.

“The races were amazing as almost every class had a good battle that included Guam vs. CNMI. Some had all CNMI racers, some had majority Guam racers, but the competition was just as exciting. Two days of racing gave the riders a chance to gauge the competition and adjust for the next day. There were strategies shared and strategies concealed for the second heat on Sunday.”

Aside from seeing old rivals like Kim Aiken back on the saddle, Cepeda also was happy to see former MRA president Steve Sablan back in his element on the track.

“He became president when Cuki [Alvarez] started the push to get motocross back on the island in 2019 right before the pandemic started. Steve also got the Cowtown land transferred to MRA.”

For his part, Guam Motorcycle and ATV Club Jeff Rios lauded MRA for hosting them in the Turkey Cross Race.

“Motocross is an individual sport, but making a momentous event like this takes a team of people and sponsors who are not concerned about finishing first but about completing the race. It takes a lot of door-knocking, patiently waiting for email replies, and persistence. All this work paid off with the fun and excitement the kids had this past weekend. Not to mention the life-long memories the event brought,” he said.

Rios and his club are hopeful that Smokin Wheels 23 becomes a reality so they in turn can invite MRA riders to Guam.

“At this time we do not have a formal lease in place at Guam Raceway Park, but I have a lot of faith in our lawmakers that know that there is a need for a safe environment for all motorsports. Once that happens, rest assured Marianas Racing Association is invited to our 40th celebration of Smokin Wheels.”

All set for Holiday Half Marathon and 5.5K

The Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon and 5.5K Fun Run takes place this Saturday. The Half Marathon starts at 5:30am at Sugar Dock and finishes at Banzai Cliff. The 5.5K starts at 6:30am and is an out and back course, starting and finishing at Banzai Cliff.

Edward Dela Cruz Jr., president of Run Saipan, is looking forward to what will be the biggest event of the year.

“This is our inaugural Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon and 5.5K Fun Run and we anticipate this to be our largest running event of the year,” said Dela Cruz. “All Half Marathon finishers and the first 300 to finish the 5.5K will receive dri-fit finisher shirts and a finisher medal. Both races finish at Banzai Cliff and we look forward to all the finish line festivities which will include raffles and an awards ceremony.”

This inaugural event is presented by Atkins Kroll.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
All Half Marathon finishers will receive a Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon long sleeve dri-fit finisher shirt.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The first 300 finishers in the 5.5K will receive a Run Saipan 5.5K short sleeve dri-fit finisher shirt.

Registration

Last day to register is Friday, Dec. 9, 11:59pm and can be done through the event’s registration site on raceroster.com by searching for the Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon. Event organizers encourage interested participants to register by Wednesday, Dec. 7 . Late fee will be applied on Friday.

Finisher shirts

All Half Marathon finishers will receive a Run Saipan Holiday Half Marathon long sleeve dri-fit finisher shirt, while the first 300 finishers in the 5.5K will receive a Run Saipan 5.5K short sleeve dri-fit finisher shirt. Both shirts feature designs celebrating this inaugural event.

Packet pickup

Packet pickup is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7, and Thursday, Dec. 8 from 8am to 6pm at the Atkins Kroll Toyota showroom in Oleai. Runners will receive their race bib and timing chip. Anyone who registers for the half marathon after Dec. 8 will pick up their bib and chip at the Sugar Dock start line starting from 4am. For people running the 5.5K and registering after packet pickup, they can pick up their packets from the 5.5K start line at Banzai Cliff starting at 5am.

For more information about the races, contact Ron Snyder at runsaipan@gmail.com or call at (670) 287-0891

School prize

As an additional incentive to encourage schools to participate, finishers can identify a school that they are running for. The Top 3 schools with the most support will receive a cash donation from Hong Ye Hardware.

About Run Saipan

Run Saipan seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle in the CNMI by supporting community projects such as regular 5K races, running and nutrition workshops, sending athletic ambassadors to the schools, and working with Northern Marianas Athletics to increase the opportunities for cardiovascular health available to all residents in the Commonwealth, regardless of running ability or experience.

About Atkins Kroll Saipan

About Atkins Kroll, Inc.: Atkins Kroll, an Inchcape company, is the leading distributor of vehicles in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Micronesia enabling it to provide a full range of products and services in the region. Atkins Kroll represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, Avis, Budget and Payless Rental Car, and AC Delco brands. This year Atkins Kroll celebrates 55 years of service to the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Shirley’s, Kanoa FC beat foes in women’s Premier Division

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kanoa Football Club’s Allyssa Angeles, center, runs after the ball kicked by Shirley’s FC’s Gabi Race in one of their Tinakcha-Awaal or Premier Division games of the 2022 Fall Dove Women’s League at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Shirley’s Football Club and Kanoa Football Club beat their foes in Week 4 of the Tinakcha-Awaal or Premier Division in the 2022 Fall Dove Women’s League at the Northern Mariana Islands Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Wednesday.

With an undefeated 4-0 season so far for Shirley’s FC, they are atop the standings among four teams. Their latest conquest was TakeCare Football Club, beating them 7-2.

Jannah Casarino carried Shirley’s to victory after scoring six out of the team’s seven goals. Casarino first found the back of the net 15 minutes into the game and followed it up two minutes later. She was hungry for more and scored again before the end of the first half, then scored one more to open the second half.

Teammate Jhaza Mirano contributed one goal in the 61st minute, while Casarino scored two consecutive goals right before the end of the game.

The first game of the night was against Kanoa FC and Chamorritas, with Kanoa defeating them 3-1.

Even while Chamorritas’ Rosie Jean Saralu drew first blood in the 30th minute, Kanoa FC attacked the goal

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Leonard hits go-ahead shot in return, Clippers beat Hornets

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Budhi bids Saipan adieu

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budhi Gurung, fourth from left, poses with Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association members during one of their last practices with the be-medalled former CNMI national table tennis player at the TransAmerica Hardware.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Micronesian Games gold medalist Budhi Gurung has bid Saipan goodbye after relocating to neighboring Guam earlier this month.

The 67-year-old from Kathmandu, Nepal left his second home with a great deal of sadness though, as Gurung never really wanted to move to the southern end of the Marianas chain.

"I arrived in Guam last Dec. 1 to work in the Sheraton Hotel. I must say that I had to leave Saipan with a heavy heart after 24 years. Being jobless for the past 28 months, spending about $15,000 received from Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. No source of income except spending and the biggest problem is the CNMI hotel occupancy is lower than 30% and I knew that I would not get a job except assurance all the time, so I decided to look for a job in Guam," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gurung joined the then Saipan Table Tennis Association—the precursor of the Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association—way back in 1998 and became a champion in 2000 in a tournament sponsored by Coca-Cola.

He was then selected to represent the CNMI in the table tennis competitions of the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games and the 2010 Micronesian Games both held in Koror, Palau.

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Croatia going deep again at World Cup after shootout win

By STEVE DOUGLAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

AL WAKRAH, Qatar (AP)—Croatia is going deep at another World Cup, and the team is taking the long route once again.

Goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saved three penalty kicks in Croatia's 3-1 win over Japan in a shootout on Monday, securing a return to the quarterfinals for the runner-up in the 2018 tournament. The match was tied at 1-1 after extra time.

AP

Croatia's goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic saves a penalty kick by Japan's Kaoru Mitoma during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Japan and Croatia at the Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah, Qatar, Monday, Dec. 5, 2022

On its surprising run to the final in Russia four years ago, Croatia needed extra time in each round in the knockout stage — and twice came through a penalty shootout.

"History keeps repeating itself," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said with a smile.

Livakovic was the backup goalkeeper to Danijel Subasic in 2018 but took center stage this time, diving to his left to keep out Japan's first penalty by Takumi Minamino, to his right to block Kaoru Mitoma's

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Queens of Diamonds, Hot Shots advance to finals

By LEIGH GASES
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Queens of Diamond and Hot Shots will vie for the 2022 Budweiser Belau Softball Association League women's division tiara after beating their semifinal foes last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

The Queens of Diamond royally defeated the Kosebakl Ladies, 13-3, while the Hot Shots fired a broadside at the Lady Eagles, 12-6.

In a run-ruled mercy game, the Queens commanded the field as the Kosebakl Ladies waved the white flag of surrender in the fifth inning.

The Queens' Kiana Aldan started off their reign of terror against the Ladies at the top of the first inning, with a top of the lineup solo home run. She was followed by three more runs by her teammates Kiana Camacho, Jul Ngeskebei, and Bert Camacho, for a lead of 4-1 over the Ladies.

The Kosebakl Ladies' two other runs were made by Ashley Fritz and Sonia Isaac in the next inning, but their lineup was silenced for the next three by Queens pitcher Bert Camacho.

The Queens then took turns scoring runs for the rest of the game—three runs in the second inning, one run in the third, four runs in the next, then one in the last inning.

In the last game of the day, the Hot Shots meteor showered the bulk of their runs against the Lady Eagles in the first inning. From the top of the Hot Shots' lineup, down to the eighth batter, a series of hits and a couple of errors from the defense allowed them to score consecutively.

The Hot Shots then cooled down for the rest of the game—scoring two in the second and last inning, but their lead was too high up for the Eagles to reach.

The Eagles only put up

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LEIGH GASES

Hot Shots batter Keona Rogopes swings at a pitch in their playoff game against the Lady Eagles in the women's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.